United Nations A/C.3/69/L.13

General Assembly

Distr.: Limited
10 October 2014

Original: English

Sixty-ninth session
Third Committee
Agenda item 26 (b)
Social development: social development, including questions relating to the world social situation and to youth, ageing, disabled persons and the family

Bolivia (Plurinational State of):* draft resolution

World Youth Skills Day

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 64/134 of 18 December 2009, by which it proclaimed the year commencing on 12 August 2010 the International Year of Youth: Dialogue and Mutual Understanding, and its resolution 65/312 of 26 July 2011, by which it adopted the outcome document of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on youth: dialogue and mutual understanding,

Recalling also its resolutions 50/81 of 14 December 1995 and 62/126 of 18 December 2007, by which it adopted the World Programme of Action for Youth, to the Year 2000 and Beyond and the Supplement thereto, as contained in the annexes to those resolutions respectively, and acknowledging that the World Programme of Action and the Supplement thereto provide Member States with a useful policy framework and practical guidelines for improving the state of youth,

Recalling further its resolution 54/120 of 20 January 2000, by which it declared 12 August as International Youth Day on the basis of the recommendation made by the World Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth, held in Lisbon, from 8 to 12 August 1998,

Recognizing that the majority of the world's youth live in developing countries and that development constraints pose additional challenges to youth owing to their limited access to resources, education and training, health care, employment and broader socioeconomic development opportunities, and therefore that United Nations entities and Member States should take into account these development constraints when designing and implementing the post-2015 agenda, including their programmes on youth, to ensure that benefits reach young people living in all countries,

* On behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China.

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Observing that youth development is obstructed by the economic and financial crisis, in particular by the responses to it in the countries initially most affected, as well as by challenges brought about by the food crisis and continued food insecurity, the energy crisis and climate change,

Noting that Member States have an important role in meeting the needs and aspirations of youth, and that in the ongoing efforts of some Member States to implement their pledges to achieve the internationally agreed development goals, many of the issues directly related to youth have yet to be addressed, particularly in the least developed and developing countries,

Recognizing that ongoing serious global financial and economic challenges carry the possibility of undoing years of hard work and gains made in relation to the debt of developing countries, and further recognizing the need to assist developing countries in ensuring long-term debt sustainability through coordinated policies aimed at fostering debt financing, debt relief and debt restructuring, as appropriate,

Recognizing also the commitment of the Secretary-General to prioritize youth, his support for the concerns of youth and his call to deepen the United Nations focus on youth and develop an action plan across the full range of United Nations programmes, including employment, entrepreneurship, political participation, human rights and education,

Recognizing further that developing the skills of youth in different fields would enable them to contribute positively to a range of economic activities in society and thereby to participate actively in economic development processes,

Recognizing that the development of the skills of youth in order to enable them to gain access to decent work and better employment opportunities should be one of the concrete steps in addressing the issues of growing unemployment and underemployment, while skills development should be, inter alia, an important pillar of global strategies addressing the concerns of youth,

Reiterating that access to quality formal and non-formal education, including, as appropriate, catch-up and literacy education, including in information and communications technologies for those who did not receive formal education, information and communications technologies and volunteerism are important factors that enable young people to acquire the relevant skills and to build their capacities for employability and entrepreneurial development and gain decent and productive work, and calling upon Member States to take necessary actions to ensure that young people have access to such services and opportunities,

Reaffirming the importance of supporting developing countries in their efforts to eradicate poverty and promote empowerment of the poor and people in vulnerable situations, including removing barriers to opportunity, enhancing productive capacity, developing sustainable agriculture and promoting full and productive employment and decent work for all, complemented by effective social policies, including social protection floors, with a view to achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals,

Expressing deep concern about the continuing high levels of unemployment and underemployment, particularly among young people, noting the need for sustainable development strategies to proactively address youth employment at all

levels, and in this regard recognizing the need for a global strategy on youth and employment building on the work of the International Labour Organization,

Concerned that the high number of unemployed youth at the global level, estimated at 74.5 million in 2013, the majority of them living in the developing world, continues to rise and to undermine economic development,

Recalling its resolution 68/130 of 18 December 2013, in which it urged Member States to address high rates of youth unemployment, underemployment, vulnerable employment and informal employment by developing and implementing targeted and integrated local and national youth employment policies for inclusive, sustainable and innovative job creation, improved employability, skills development and vocational training to improve the chances of integrating youth into sustainable labour markets and increased entrepreneurship, including the development of networks of young entrepreneurs at the local, national, regional and global levels that foster knowledge among young people about their rights and responsibilities in society, and in this regard requested donors, specialized United Nations entities and the private sector to continue to provide assistance to Member States, including technical and funding support, as appropriate,

Noting that the proposal of the Open Working Group of the General Assembly on Sustainable Development Goals recognized the importance of skills development and vocational education and training, especially in proposed goal 4, entitled "Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all", and goal 8, entitled "Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all",

Recognizing that youth participation is important for development, and urging Member States and entities of the United Nations system, in consultation with youth-led organizations, to explore new avenues to promote full, effective, structured and sustainable participation of young people and youth-led organizations in relevant decision-making processes, including in the design and implementation of policies, programmes and initiatives and in the elaboration of the post-2015 development agenda,

Noting the call made in the Colombo Declaration on Youth, adopted on 10 May 2014 at the World Conference on Youth 2014, held in Colombo, for the United Nations to support a dedicated day for skills development that would benefit global youth, which reflects the need for continuous attention to the development of skills that empower youth to gain access to full and quality employment,

1. *Decides* to designate 15 July as World Youth Skills Day;

2. *Invites* all Member States, organizations of the United Nations system and other international and regional organizations as well as civil society, including youth-lead organizations, to commemorate World Youth Skills Day in an appropriate manner, including through education, campaigns and public awareness-raising activities;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to bring the present resolution to the attention of all Member States and organizations of the United Nations system.

United Nations A/C.3/69/L.14

General Assembly

Distr.: Limited
16 October 2014

Original: English

Sixty-ninth session
Third Committee
Agenda item 26 (c)
Social development: follow-up to the International Year of Older Persons: Second World Assembly on Ageing

Bolivia (Plurinational State of):* draft resolution

Follow-up to the Second World Assembly on Ageing

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 57/167 of 18 December 2002, in which it endorsed the Political Declaration[1] and the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002,[2] its resolution 58/134 of 22 December 2003, in which it took note, inter alia, of the road map for the implementation of the Madrid Plan of Action, and its resolutions 60/135 of 16 December 2005, 61/142 of 19 December 2006, 62/130 of 18 December 2007, 63/151 of 18 December 2008, 64/132 of 18 December 2009, 65/182 of 21 December 2010, 66/127 of 19 December 2011, 67/139 and 67/143 of 20 December 2012 and 68/134 of 18 December 2013,

Recognizing that, in many parts of the world, awareness of the Madrid Plan of Action remains limited or non-existent, which limits the scope of implementation efforts,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General,[3]

Welcoming the important opportunity provided by the ongoing dialogue on the issues of ageing, inter alia, in the context of the discussions on the post-2015 development agenda,

Recognizing that, by 2050, more than 20 per cent of the world's population will be 60 years of age or older, and recognizing also that the increase in the number of older people will be the greatest and the most rapid in the developing world,

* On behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China.

[1] *Report of the Second World Assembly on Ageing, Madrid, 8-12 April 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.IV.4), chap. I, resolution 1, annex I.

[2] Ibid., annex II.

[3] A/69/180.

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Recalling World Health Assembly resolution 58.16 of 25 May 2005 on strengthening active and healthy ageing, which stressed the important role of public health policies and programmes in enabling the rapidly growing number of older persons in both developed and developing countries to remain in good health and maintain their many vital contributions to the well-being of their families, communities and societies,

Recalling also World Health Assembly resolution 65.3 of 25 May 2012 on strengthening non-communicable disease policies to promote active ageing, which recognizes that population ageing is among the major factors contributing to the rising incidence and prevalence of non-communicable diseases,

Concerned that many health systems are not sufficiently prepared to respond to the needs of the rapidly ageing population, including the need for preventative, curative, palliative and specialized care,

Deeply concerned that the situation of older persons in many parts of the world has been negatively affected by the world financial and economic crisis,

Recognizing the essential contribution that the majority of older men and women can continue to make to the functioning of society if adequate guarantees are in place,

Noting that older women outnumber older men, and noting with concern that older women often face multiple forms of discrimination resulting from their gender-based roles in society, compounded by their age or disability or on other grounds, which affect the enjoyment of their human rights,

1. *Reaffirms* the Political Declaration[1] and the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002;[2]

2. *Welcomes* the appointment by the Human Rights Council of the Independent Expert on the enjoyment of all human rights by older persons, Rosa Kornfeld-Mattee, and invites Member States to cooperate with her in carrying out her mandate;

3. *Invites* Member States to share their national experiences in developing and implementing policies and programmes aimed at strengthening the promotion and protection of the human rights of older persons, including within the framework of the Open-ended Working Group on Ageing;

4. *Stresses* the importance for the independent expert and the Open-ended Working Group on Ageing to work in close coordination, while avoiding unnecessary duplication of each other's mandates and those of other special procedures and subsidiary organs of the Human Rights Council, relevant United Nations bodies and treaties;

5. *Encourages* all Member States to be mindful of the reports of the independent expert, including the comprehensive report to be brought to the attention of the Working Group;

6. *Invites* Member States to adopt and implement non-discriminatory policies and to systematically review and amend, where appropriate, existing practices and regulations that discriminate against older persons, in order to promote an enabling environment for older persons;

7. *Encourages* Governments to ensure that the social integration of older persons and the promotion and protection of their rights form an integral part of development policies at all levels;

8. *Also encourages* Governments to pay greater attention to building capacity to eradicate poverty among older persons, in particular older women, by mainstreaming ageing issues into poverty eradication strategies and national development plans, and to include both ageing-specific policies and ageing-mainstreaming efforts in their national strategies;

9. *Encourages* Member States to strengthen their efforts to develop national capacity to address their national implementation priorities identified during the review and appraisal of the Madrid Plan of Action, and invites Member States that have not done so to consider a step-by-step approach to developing capacity that includes the setting of national priorities, the strengthening of institutional mechanisms, research, data collection and analysis and the training of necessary personnel in the field of ageing;

10. *Also encourages* Member States to overcome obstacles to the implementation of the Madrid Plan of Action by devising strategies that take into account the entirety of the human life course and foster intergenerational solidarity in order to increase the likelihood of greater success in the years ahead;

11. *Further encourages* Member States to place particular emphasis on choosing national priorities that are realistic, sustainable and feasible and have the greatest likelihood of being achieved in the years ahead and to develop targets and indicators to measure progress in the implementation process;

12. *Invites* Member States to identify key priority areas for implementation of the Madrid Plan of Action, including empowering older persons and promoting their rights, raising awareness of ageing issues and building national capacity to address ageing;

13. *Recommends* that Member States increase efforts to raise awareness of the Madrid Plan of Action, including by promoting and supporting initiatives to advance a positive public image of older persons and their multiple contributions to their families, communities and societies, working with the regional commissions and enlisting the help of the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat in seeking increased attention for ageing issues;

14. *Encourages* Governments that have not done so to designate focal points for handling the follow-up of national plans of action on ageing, and also encourages Governments to strengthen existing networks of national focal points on ageing;

15. *Invites* Governments to conduct their ageing-related policies through inclusive and participatory consultations with relevant stakeholders and social development partners, in the interest of developing effective policies creating national policy ownership and consensus-building;

16. *Recommends* that Member States enhance their capacity to more effectively collect data, statistics and qualitative information, disaggregated when necessary by relevant factors, including sex and disability, in order to better assess the situation of older persons and to set adequate monitoring mechanisms for

programmes and policies geared towards protecting the full and equal enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms by older persons;

17. *Recommends* that States parties to existing international human rights instruments address the situation of older persons, where appropriate, more explicitly in their reports, and encourages treaty body monitoring mechanisms and special procedures mandate holders, in accordance with their mandates, to pay more attention to the situation of older persons in their dialogue with Member States, in their consideration of the reports or in their country missions;

18. *Encourages* Governments to continue their efforts to implement the Madrid Plan of Action and to mainstream the concerns of older persons into their policy agendas, bearing in mind the crucial importance of family intergenerational interdependence, solidarity and reciprocity for social development and the realization of all human rights for older persons, and to prevent age discrimination and provide social integration;

19. *Recognizes* the importance of strengthening intergenerational partnerships and solidarity among generations, and in this regard calls upon Member States to promote opportunities for voluntary, constructive and regular interaction between young people and older generations in the family, the workplace and society at large;

20. *Encourages* Member States to adopt social policies that promote the development of community services for older persons, taking into account the psychological and physical aspects of ageing and the special needs of older women;

21. *Also encourages* Member States to ensure that older persons have access to information about their rights so as to enable them to participate fully and justly in their societies and to claim full enjoyment of all human rights;

22. *Calls upon* Member States to develop their national capacity for monitoring and enforcing the rights of older persons, in consultation with all sectors of society, including organizations of older persons, through, inter alia, national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights, where applicable;

23. *Also calls upon* Member States to strengthen and incorporate a gender and disability perspective into all policy actions on ageing, as well as to address and eliminate discrimination on the basis of age, gender or disability, and recommends that Member States engage with all sectors of society, in particular with relevant organizations with an interest in the matter, including organizations of older persons, of women and of persons with disabilities, in changing negative stereotypes about older persons, in particular older women and older persons with disabilities, and promote positive images of older persons;

24. *Acknowledges* that universal health coverage implies that all people, including older persons, have access, without discrimination, to nationally determined sets of the needed promotive, preventive, curative and rehabilitative basic health services and essential, safe, affordable, effective and quality medicines, while ensuring that the use of these services does not expose the users to financial hardship, with a special emphasis on the poor, vulnerable and marginalized segments of the population;

25. *Urges* Member States to develop, implement and evaluate policies and programmes that promote healthy and active ageing and the highest attainable

standard of health and well-being for older persons, and to develop health care for older persons as part of primary care in the existing national health systems;

26. *Recognizes* the importance of training, education and capacity-building of the health workforce, including for home-based care;

27. *Calls upon* Member States to address the issue of the well-being and adequate health care of older persons, as well as any cases of neglect, abuse and violence against older persons, by designing and implementing more effective prevention strategies and stronger laws and policies to address these problems and their underlying factors;

28. *Also calls upon* Member States to take concrete measures to further protect and assist older persons in emergency situations, in accordance with the Madrid Plan of Action;

29. *Stresses* that, in order to complement national development efforts, enhanced international cooperation is essential to support developing countries in implementing the Madrid Plan of Action, while recognizing the importance of assistance and the provision of financial assistance;

30. *Encourages* Member States to ensure that the principle of non-discrimination on the basis of age is incorporated and upheld in health policies and programmes and that the implementation of such policies and programmes is regularly monitored;

31. *Also encourages* Member States to adopt and enforce guidelines that establish standards for the provision of long-term support and assistance to older persons;

32. *Recommends* that Governments involve older persons and their organizations in the formulation, implementation and monitoring of policies and programmes that affect them;

33. *Encourages* the international community, including international and bilateral donors, to enhance international cooperation to support national efforts to eradicate poverty, in keeping with internationally agreed goals, in order to achieve sustainable and adequate social and economic support for older persons, while bearing in mind that countries have the primary responsibility for their own economic and social development;

34. *Also encourages* the international community to support national efforts to forge stronger partnerships with civil society, including organizations of older persons, academia, research foundations, community-based organizations, including caregivers, and the private sector, in an effort to help to build capacity on ageing issues;

35. *Further encourages* the international community and the relevant agencies of the United Nations system, within their respective mandates, to support national efforts to provide funding for research and data-collection initiatives on ageing, as appropriate, in order to better understand the challenges and opportunities presented by population ageing and to provide policymakers with more accurate and more specific information on gender and ageing;

36. *Recognizes* the important role of various international and regional organizations that deal with training, capacity-building, policy design and

monitoring at the national and regional levels in promoting and facilitating the implementation of the Madrid Plan of Action, and acknowledges the work that is undertaken in various parts of the world, as well as regional initiatives, and by institutes such as the International Institute on Ageing in Malta and the European Centre for Social Welfare Policy and Research in Vienna;

37. *Recommends* that Member States reaffirm the role of United Nations focal points on ageing, increase technical cooperation efforts, expand the role of the regional commissions on ageing issues and continue to provide resources for those efforts, facilitate the coordination of national and international non-governmental organizations on ageing and enhance cooperation with academia on a research agenda on ageing;

38. *Reiterates* the need for additional capacity-building at the national level in order to promote and facilitate further implementation of the Madrid Plan of Action, as well as the results of its review and appraisal cycle, and in this regard encourages Governments to support the United Nations Trust Fund for Ageing to enable the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat to provide expanded assistance to countries, upon their request;

39. *Requests* the United Nations system to strengthen its capacity to support, in an efficient and coordinated manner, national implementation of the Madrid Plan of Action, where appropriate;

40. *Recommends* that the situation of older persons be taken into account in the ongoing efforts to achieve the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration,[4] and be given due consideration in the elaboration of the development agenda beyond 2015;

41. *Notes with appreciation* the work of the Open-ended Working Group on Ageing, established by the General Assembly in paragraph 28 of resolution 65/182, and recognizes the positive contributions of Member States, as well as relevant bodies and organizations of the United Nations, intergovernmental and relevant non-governmental organizations, national human rights institutions and invited panellists, during the first five working sessions of the Working Group;

42. *Decides* to amend the name of the Open-ended Working Group to reflect the wording and mandate of resolutions 65/182 and 67/139 to "Open-ended Working Group for the purpose of strengthening the protection of the human rights of older persons";

43. *Calls upon* Member States to contribute to the work of the Open-ended Working-Group by making recommendations regarding the content and practical measures that should be considered in an international legal instrument to promote and protect the rights and dignity of older persons, based on the holistic approach in the work carried out in the fields of social development, human rights and non-discrimination, as well as gender equality and the empowerment of women, and taking into account the inputs of the Human Rights Council, the reports of the Working Group and the recommendations of the Commission for Social Development and the Commission on the Status of Women, as well as the contributions from the second global review and appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002;

[4] Resolution 55/2.

44. *Invites* States and relevant bodies and organizations of the United Nations system, including relevant human rights mandate holders and treaty bodies and the regional commissions, as well as intergovernmental and relevant non-governmental organizations with an interest in the matter, to continue to make contributions to the work entrusted to the Working Group, as appropriate;

45. *Invites* Member States to consider making explicit reference to age in their national anti-discrimination legislation and take effective measures to prevent forms of multiple discrimination against older persons;

46. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to provide all necessary support to the Working Group, within existing resources, for organizing, in 2015, a sixth working session;

47. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventieth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution.

United Nations A/C.3/69/L.15

General Assembly

Distr.: Limited
10 October 2014

Original: English

Sixty-ninth session
Third Committee
Agenda item 106
International drug control

Mexico: draft resolution

International cooperation against the world drug problem

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming the Political Declaration adopted by the General Assembly at its twentieth special session,[1] the Declaration on the Guiding Principles of Drug Demand Reduction,[2] the Action Plan on International Cooperation on the Eradication of Illicit Drug Crops and on Alternative Development,[3] the Action Plan for the Implementation of the Declaration on the Guiding Principles of Drug Demand Reduction[4] and the United Nations Guiding Principles on Alternative Development,[5]

Reaffirming also the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem[6] and the joint ministerial statement of the 2014 high-level review by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs of the implementation by Member States of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action,[7]

Recalling the United Nations Millennium Declaration,[8] the provisions of the 2005 World Summit Outcome addressing the world drug problem,[9] the Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS[10] and other relevant United Nations resolutions, including General Assembly resolution 68/197 of 18 December 2013 and those on

[1] Resolution S-20/2, annex.
[2] Resolution S-20/3, annex.
[3] Resolution S-20/4 E.
[4] Resolution 54/132, annex.
[5] Resolution 68/196, annex.
[6] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2009, Supplement No. 8* (E/2009/28), chap. I, sect. C.
[7] Ibid., *2014, Supplement No. 8* (E/2014/28), chap. I, sect. C.
[8] Resolution 55/2.
[9] See resolution 60/1.
[10] Resolution 60/262, annex.

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regional and international cooperation to prevent the diversion and smuggling of precursors,

Recalling also the adoption by the Economic and Social Council of its resolution 2012/12 of 26 July 2012 on the strategy for the period 2012-2015 for the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, welcoming the measures taken by the Office to develop a thematic and regional programme approach to its activities, and noting the progress in the implementation of such an approach,

Noting with appreciation the efforts of the Secretary-General to develop, within the United Nations system, an effective and comprehensive approach to transnational organized crime and the world drug problem, and reaffirming the crucial role of Member States in this regard,

Welcoming the efforts made by Member States to comply with the provisions of the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961 as amended by the 1972 Protocol,[11] the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971[12] and the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988,[13]

Emphasizing the importance both of the universality of the three above-mentioned international drug control conventions and of their implementation, noting that their ultimate goal is to ensure the health and welfare of humankind,

Recalling all resolutions adopted by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs at its fifty-seventh session,[7]

Gravely concerned that, despite continuing increased efforts by States, relevant organizations, civil society and non-governmental organizations, the world drug problem continues to constitute a serious threat to public health and safety and the well-being of humanity, in particular children and young people and their families, and to the national security and sovereignty of States, and that it undermines socioeconomic and political stability and sustainable development,

Reaffirming that the world drug problem remains a common and shared responsibility that requires effective and increased international cooperation and demands an integrated, multidisciplinary, mutually reinforcing and balanced approach to supply and demand reduction strategies,

Deeply concerned about the need to take all appropriate measures, including legislative, administrative, social and educational measures, to protect children and young people against the use or abuse of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, as defined in the relevant treaties, and to prevent the use of children and young people in the illicit production of and trafficking in such substances,

Recognizing the importance of preventing and addressing drug-related youth crime, considering its impact on the social and economic development of societies, and supporting the rehabilitation and treatment of young offenders and their reintegration into society,

Noting with grave concern the global increased abuse of certain drugs and the proliferation of new substances, the increasing sophistication of the transnational

[11] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 976, No. 14152.
[12] Ibid., vol. 1019, No. 14956.
[13] Ibid., vol. 1582, No. 27627.

organized criminal groups engaged in their manufacture and distribution, the proliferation and diversion of chemical precursors used in the illicit manufacture of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances and the emergence of new methods of diversion used by organized criminal groups,

Recognizing the critical importance of forensic and scientific laboratory and treatment centre data and qualitative information in understanding the problem of illicit synthetic drugs and the range of products available on the illicit market,

Noting the need to promote adequate availability of internationally controlled narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances for medical and scientific purposes while preventing their diversion and abuse, in line with the three international drug control conventions,

Recognizing the principal role of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and its subsidiary bodies, together with the International Narcotics Control Board, as the United Nations organs with prime responsibility for drug control matters, and recognizing also the need to promote and facilitate the effective implementation of and follow-up to the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem,

Reaffirming that countering the world drug problem in all its aspects requires a political commitment to reducing supply, as an integral component of a balanced and comprehensive drug control strategy, in accordance with the principles enshrined in the Political Declaration adopted by the General Assembly at its twentieth special session and the measures to enhance international cooperation to counter the world drug problem,[14] including the Action Plan on International Cooperation on the Eradication of Illicit Drug Crops and on Alternative Development, also adopted at that session, and the United Nations Guiding Principles on Alternative Development,

Reaffirming equally that reducing drug abuse requires efforts to reduce demand, which must be demonstrated by sustained widespread demand reduction initiatives that are age- and gender-sensitive and integrate a comprehensive public-health approach spanning the spectrum of prevention, education, early detection and intervention, treatment, care and related support services, recovery support, rehabilitation and social reintegration of drug users, in full compliance with the three international drug control conventions and in accordance with the Declaration on the Guiding Principles of Drug Demand Reduction, adopted by the General Assembly at its twentieth special session, and with the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem, adopted by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs at the high-level segment of its fifty-second session, and other relevant Assembly resolutions,

Conscious of the need to continue raising public awareness of the risks and threats posed to all societies by the negative aspects of the world drug problem,

Observing the importance of advancing in a coordinated manner to confront the world drug problem, considering approaches that, based on knowledge and scientific evidence, contribute to the strengthening of national strategies in an effort

[14] Resolutions S-20/4 A-E.

to seek effective solutions and achieve better results in response to current challenges,

Recognizing the need to develop and implement, in a comprehensive, integrated and participatory manner, structural policies that address the multiple risk factors of the drug problem and the related social damage by fostering social development, considering, inter alia, prevention strategies, the strengthening of the social fabric, improving access to justice, social inclusion and the needs of drug-related crime victims when developing those policies, in accordance with national law,

Recalling its resolution 67/193, in which it decided to convene, early in 2016, a special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem, following the high-level review of the progress made in the implementation by Member States of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem, which was conducted by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs at its fifty-seventh session, in March 2014,

Recalling also its decision in the aforementioned resolution that the special session of the General Assembly would review the progress in the implementation of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action, including an assessment of the achievements and challenges in countering the world drug problem, within the framework of the three international drug control conventions and other relevant United Nations instruments,

1. *Reiterates its call upon* States to take, in a timely manner, the measures necessary to implement the actions and attain the goals and targets set out in the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem,[6] adopted by the General Assembly at its sixty-fourth session, and the general challenges and priorities for action identified in the joint ministerial statement of the 2014 high-level review by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs of the implementation by Member States of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action;[7]

2. *Reaffirms* that countering the world drug problem is a common and shared responsibility that must be addressed in a multilateral setting, that it requires an integrated and balanced approach and that it must be carried out in full conformity with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and other provisions of international law, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights[15] and the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action[16] on human rights and, in particular, with full respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of States, for the principle of non-intervention in the internal affairs of States and for all human rights and fundamental freedoms, and on the basis of the principles of equal rights and mutual respect;

3. *Calls upon* Member States to engage in effective cooperation and practical action aimed at addressing the world drug problem on the basis of the principle of common and shared responsibility;

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[15] Resolution 217 A (III).

[16] A/CONF.157/24 (Part I), chap. III.

4. *Encourages* Member States to give adequate consideration to the negative effects of the world drug problem and its consequences on development and on society in general;

5. *Invites* Member States to implement comprehensive drug abuse prevention measures from a perspective that considers the individual as well as the community and society as a whole, including through public-health education on the dangers of drug abuse, violence prevention, rehabilitation and aftercare to reintegrate former drug users into society, as well as anticipate, detect and analyse various risks to communities associated with drug-related violence and crime;

6. *Undertakes* to promote bilateral, regional and international cooperation, including through intelligence-sharing and cross-border cooperation, aimed at countering the world drug problem more effectively, in particular by encouraging and supporting such cooperation by those States most directly affected by illicit crop cultivation and the illicit production, manufacture, transit, trafficking, distribution and abuse of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances;

7. *Reiterates* the commitment of Member States to promoting, developing, reviewing or strengthening effective, comprehensive, integrated drug demand reduction programmes, based on scientific evidence and covering a range of measures, including primary prevention, education, early detection and intervention, treatment, care and related support services, recovery support, rehabilitation and social reintegration efforts, aimed at promoting health and social well-being among individuals, families and communities and reducing the adverse consequences of drug abuse for individuals and society as a whole, taking into account the specific needs of women and the particular challenges posed by high-risk drug users, in full compliance with the three international drug control conventions and in accordance with national legislation, and commits Member States to investing increased resources in ensuring access to those interventions on a non-discriminatory basis, including in detention facilities, bearing in mind that those interventions should also consider vulnerabilities that undermine human development, such as poverty and social marginalization;

8. *Calls upon* Member States to cooperate in preventing the violence and social damage associated with the production, trafficking and use of drugs;

9. *Encourages* intersectoral collaboration among judicial, criminal justice system, public health and education institutions for the implementation of practices for the social reintegration and rehabilitation of offenders, as appropriate, in the framework of ensuring the widespread and full enjoyment of human rights;

10. *Notes with great concern* the adverse consequences of drug abuse for individuals and society as a whole, reaffirms the commitment of all Member States to tackling those problems in the context of comprehensive, complementary and multisectoral drug demand reduction strategies, in particular such strategies targeting children, young people and their families, also notes with great concern the alarming rise in the incidence of HIV/AIDS and other blood-borne diseases among injecting drug users, reaffirms the commitment of all Member States to working towards the goal of universal access to comprehensive prevention programmes and treatment, care and related support services, in full compliance with the international drug control conventions and in accordance with national legislation, taking into account all relevant General Assembly resolutions and, when applicable,

the revised technical guide for countries to set targets for universal access to HIV prevention, treatment and care for injecting drug users, issued by the World Health Organization, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS, and requests the Office to carry out its mandate in this area in close cooperation with relevant organizations and programmes of the United Nations system, such as the World Health Organization, the United Nations Development Programme and the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS;

11. *Urges* Member States, where appropriate, to develop national responses to address the issue of drug-affected driving by, inter alia, exchanging information and best practices on effective responses, including through engagement with the international scientific and legal communities;

12. *Encourages* Member States to promote, in accordance with Commission on Narcotic Drugs resolutions 53/4[17] and 54/6,[18] the adequate availability of internationally controlled narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances for medical and scientific purposes while preventing their diversion and abuse, and requests the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the International Narcotics Control Board to continue their efforts in that regard;

13. *Urges* all Member States to enact comprehensive measures aimed at stemming the abuse of prescription drugs, in particular through the establishment of awareness-raising initiatives targeting the general public and health-care providers;

14. *Acknowledges* the continuing efforts made and the progress achieved in countering the world drug problem, notes with great concern the continuing illicit production of and trafficking in opium, the continuing illicit manufacture of and trafficking in cocaine, the increasing illicit production of and trafficking in cannabis, the ongoing global spread of the illicit manufacture of amphetamine-type stimulants and the increasing diversion of precursors, as well as the related distribution and use of illicit drugs, and stresses the need to strengthen and intensify joint efforts at the national, regional and international levels to tackle those global challenges in a more comprehensive manner, in accordance with the principle of common and shared responsibility, including by means of enhanced and better-coordinated technical and financial assistance;

15. *Expresses its concern* that, despite the efforts of Member States and the international community, the extent of illicit drug use has increased, although patterns of abuse, production and trafficking continue to shift from country to country;

16. *Stresses* that it is absolutely imperative for Member States to strengthen international efforts in order to achieve more effective results in countering the world drug problem;

17. *Recognizes* that it is necessary for Member States, in accordance with their obligations under international law, to consider:

(a) Regularly reviewing the drug policies adopted, ensuring that they are comprehensive and focused on the well-being of the individual, in order to address national challenges and assess the impact and effectiveness of those policies;

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[17] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2010, Supplement No. 8* (E/2010/28), chap. I, sect. C.

[18] Ibid., *2011, Supplement No. 8* (E/2011/28), chap. I, sect. C.

(b) Developing, in accordance with the reality of each State and on the basis of an increased understanding of the causes of new challenges posed by the world drug problem, responses that prevent social costs or contribute to their reduction, and, when appropriate, reviewing traditional approaches and considering the development of new approaches, based on scientific evidence and knowledge;

18. *Invites* Member States to take appropriate measures so as to strengthen international cooperation and the exchange of information regarding the identification of new routes and modi operandi of organized criminal groups dedicated to the diversion or smuggling of substances frequently used in the illicit manufacture of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, in particular with respect to their trafficking via the Internet, and to continue to notify the International Narcotics Control Board of such information;

19. *Continues to encourage* Member States to promote, in accordance with Commission on Narcotic Drugs resolution 57/9 of 21 March 2014,[7] the sharing of information on the potential abuse of and trafficking in synthetic cannabinoid receptor agonists, as well as the sharing of information with regard to patterns of use, risks to public health, forensic data and the regulation of new psychoactive substances;

20. *Encourages* Member States to adopt measures to strengthen public awareness of the risks and threats posed to and the negative impacts on society of the abuse, production and trafficking of drugs;

21. *Recognizes*:

(a) That sustainable crop control strategies targeting the illicit cultivation of crops used for the production of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances require international cooperation based on the principle of shared responsibility and an integrated and balanced approach, taking into account the rule of law and, where appropriate, security concerns, with full respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of States, the principle of non-intervention in the internal affairs of States and all human rights and fundamental freedoms;

(b) That such crop control strategies include, inter alia, alternative development and, where appropriate, preventive alternative development programmes, eradication and law enforcement measures;

(c) That alternative development is an important, lawful, viable and sustainable alternative to the illicit cultivation of drug crops and an effective measure for countering the world drug problem and other drug-related crime challenges, as well as a choice in favour of societies free of drug abuse, that it is one of the key components of policies and programmes for reducing illicit drug production and that it is an integral part of efforts by Governments to achieve sustainable development within their societies;

(d) That such crop control strategies should be in full conformity with article 14 of the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988[13] and appropriately coordinated and phased in accordance with national policies in order to achieve the sustainable eradication of illicit crops and facilitate long-term development, noting furthermore the need for Member States to undertake to increase long-term investment in such strategies, coordinated with other development measures, in order to contribute to the

sustainability of social and economic development and poverty eradication in affected rural areas, taking due account of the traditional licit uses of crops where there is historical evidence of such use and giving due consideration to the protection of the environment;

(e) That developing countries with extensive expertise in alternative development, including preventive alternative development, play a significant role in promoting best practices and lessons learned from alternative development programmes, and invites them to continue sharing those best practices with States affected by illicit crop cultivation, including those emerging from conflict;

22. *Encourages* Member States, international organizations, entities and other relevant stakeholders to take due account of the United Nations Guiding Principles on Alternative Development[5] when designing and implementing alternative development programmes;

23. *Requests* the international community, in particular the countries of destination, to continue to provide, directly or through the competent regional and international organizations, on the basis of the principle of shared responsibility, urgent and sufficient technical assistance and support to the most affected transit States, in full cooperation with national authorities, in order to promote the capacities of such States to counter the flow of illicit drugs in accordance with article 10 of the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988;

24. *Reiterates* the urgent need for Member States to strengthen international and regional cooperation in order to respond to the serious challenges posed by the increasing links between drug trafficking, money-laundering, corruption and other forms of organized crime, including trafficking in persons, smuggling of migrants, trafficking in firearms, cybercrime and, in some cases, terrorism and the financing of terrorism, and to the significant challenges faced by law enforcement and judicial authorities in responding to the ever-changing means used by transnational criminal organizations, including the corruption of State officials, to avoid detection and prosecution;

25. *Recognizes* the increasing links between drug trafficking and the illicit manufacturing of and trafficking in firearms in some regions of the world and the need to prevent the spread of that problem to other regions, and urges Member States to take adequate measures, consistent with their international treaty obligations and other relevant international standards, to fully cooperate in preventing the acquisition and use of firearms and ammunition by criminal organizations involved in drug trafficking and in combating the illicit manufacturing of and trafficking in such firearms and ammunition;

26. *Calls upon* Member States to consider, when developing comprehensive policies to deal with the world drug problem, measures, programmes and actions that address the needs of the victims of violence and crime;

27. *Reaffirms* the importance of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and its regional offices in building capacity at the local level in the fight against transnational organized crime and drug trafficking, and encourages the Office to maintain an effective level of support for national and regional efforts in countering the world drug problem;

28. *Requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to increase collaboration with intergovernmental, international and relevant regional organizations involved in addressing the world drug problem, as appropriate, in order to share best practices and scientific standards and to maximize the benefits from their unique comparative advantage, and to continue providing technical assistance to Member States so as to enhance capacity in countering the world drug problem, including enhancing the analytical work of laboratories, by carrying out training programmes to develop indicators and instruments for the collection and analysis of accurate, reliable and comparable data on all relevant aspects of the world drug problem and, where appropriate, enhance or develop new national indicators and instruments;

29. *Invites* Member States to invest, where necessary and taking into account specific needs and available resources, in capacity-building and quality-enhancing activities for the collection and reporting of information, and to participate in joint cooperation efforts organized by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and by other national, regional or international organizations and bodies, aimed at the exchange of technical knowledge of experts in the area of data collection, analysis and evaluation and of practical experience in the area of drug data, and to regularly report data and information relating to all aspects of the world drug problem to the Office through the annual report questionnaires in order to strengthen the capacity of the Office to collect, analyse, use and disseminate accurate, reliable, objective and comparable data and to reflect such information in the *World Drug Report*;

30. *Encourages* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to continue its efforts in supporting States to establish, upon request, operational frameworks essential for communication within and across national borders and in facilitating the exchange of information on and analysis of drug trafficking trends, with a view to increasing knowledge about the world drug problem at the national, regional and international levels, recognizes the importance of integrating laboratories and providing scientific support to drug control frameworks and of treating quality analytical data as a primary source of information worldwide, and urges coordination with other international entities, including the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL);

31. *Urges* all Member States to provide the fullest possible financial and political support to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime by widening its donor base and increasing voluntary contributions, in particular general-purpose contributions, so as to enable it to continue, expand, improve and strengthen, within its mandates, its operational and technical cooperation activities, including with a view to assisting Member States with the full implementation of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem, as well as with the full implementation of relevant resolutions adopted by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs;

32. *Expresses concern* regarding the overall financial situation of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, emphasizes the need to provide the Office with adequate, predictable and stable resources and to ensure their cost-effective utilization, and requests the Secretary-General to continue to report, within existing reporting obligations, on the financial situation of the Office and to continue to

ensure that the Office has sufficient resources to carry out its mandates fully and effectively;

33. *Urges* States that have not done so to consider ratifying or acceding to, and States parties to implement, as a matter of priority, all the provisions of the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961 as amended by the 1972 Protocol,[11] the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971,[12] the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988, the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto[19] and the United Nations Convention against Corruption;[20]

34. *Requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to continue to provide, in close collaboration with the International Narcotics Control Board, as may be appropriate, adequate support and technical assistance to Governments in all regions so as to enable them to implement and fully meet their obligations under conventions and give adequate follow-up to subsequent resolutions of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly, including for the strengthening of regulatory authorities and controls, provision of information and fulfilment of reporting requirements, and urges donors to contribute to the Office for those purposes;

35. *Takes note* of the resolutions adopted by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs at its fifty-seventh session,[7] the *World Drug Report 2014* of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the most recent report of the International Narcotics Control Board,[21] and calls upon Member States to strengthen international and regional cooperation and coordination to counter the threat to the international community caused by the illicit production of and the trafficking in and consumption of drugs, especially those in the opium group, as well as other aspects of the world drug problem, and to continue to take concerted measures within the framework of the Paris Pact[22] and other relevant regional and international initiatives and mechanisms, such as the "Heart of Asia" initiative, in order to strengthen cross-border cooperation and information exchange with a view to countering the drug problem with the support of the Office and regional mechanisms and organizations;

36. *Urges* Member States to continue to actively cooperate with the International Narcotics Control Board in the exercise of its mandate, and emphasizes the need to ensure that an appropriate level of resources is made available to the Board to enable it to engage with Governments to effectively monitor compliance by States parties with the three international drug control conventions;

37. *Emphasizes* the important role played by civil society, in particular non-governmental organizations, in addressing the world drug problem, notes with appreciation their important contribution to the review process, and notes that representatives of affected populations and civil society entities, where appropriate, should be enabled to play a participatory role in the formulation and implementation of drug demand and supply reduction policy;

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[19] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vols. 2225, 2237, 2241 and 2326, No. 39574.

[20] Ibid., vol. 2349, No. 42146.

[21] International Narcotics Control Board, document E/INCB/2013/1.

[22] See S/2003/641, annex.

38. *Encourages* Member States to ensure that civil society plays a participatory role, where appropriate, through consultation in the development and implementation of drug control programmes and policies, in particular with regard to aspects of demand reduction;

39. *Encourages* the meetings of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies and of the Subcommission on Illicit Drug Traffic and Related Matters in the Near and Middle East of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs to continue to contribute to the strengthening of regional and international cooperation, and in this regard acknowledges the discussions conducted in Addis Ababa from 15 to 19 September 2014, Asunción from 6 to 10 October 2014 and Vienna from 2 to 5 July 2013;

40. *Welcomes* the ongoing efforts to strengthen cooperation in countering the world drug problem undertaken by regional organizations and transregional initiatives;

41. *Invites* Member States, in consultation with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, donors and other relevant international organizations, to continue assisting African States in addressing health problems and raising awareness of the dangers associated with the abuse of all drugs, and in this regard encourages the Office and the African Union Commission to continue to work together to enhance the complementarities of their activities;

42. *Reiterates its call upon* the relevant United Nations agencies and entities and other international organizations, and invites international financial institutions, including regional development banks, to mainstream efforts to counter the world drug problem into their programmes, and calls upon the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to maintain its leading role by providing relevant information and technical assistance;

43. *Welcomes* Commission on Narcotic Drugs resolution 57/5 of 21 March 2014[7] and the decision therein that the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem in 2016 will have an inclusive preparatory process that includes extensive substantive consultations, allowing organs, entities and specialized agencies of the United Nations system, relevant international and regional organizations, civil society and other relevant stakeholders to fully contribute to the process;

44. *Reaffirms* the leading role of the Commission on Narcotics Drugs and the invitation to the President of the General Assembly to support, guide and stay involved in the process;

45. *Reaffirms* its resolution 69/[ ] of [ ] on the preparations for the special session and the importance of open and inclusive dialogue involving Governments, civil society, the scientific community and young people as the best way to counter the world drug problem;

46. *Recognizes* the importance of the active involvement of the United Nations system task force on transnational organized crime and drug trafficking as threats to security and stability in preparations for the special session, while encouraging a high-level, fruitful, wide-ranging and pragmatic debate;

47. *Recognizes* the important role played by civil society, in particular non-governmental organizations, in addressing the world drug problem, also

recognizes the need for the active involvement of civil society in the preparations for the special session and for its effective, substantive and active involvement during the special session, and invites the President of the General Assembly to propose to Member States, in consultation with Member States and civil society and taking into consideration the recommendations of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, appropriate modalities for the effective involvement of non-governmental organizations, including the formation of a civil society task force to ensure the participation of a broad and geographically diverse cross-section of civil society actors;

48. *Takes note* of the ongoing discussions in some regions on how to address the world drug problem, in the light of the current situation and policies, and emphasizes the importance of a broad, transparent, inclusive and scientific evidence-based discussion among Member States, with input from other relevant stakeholders, as appropriate, in multilateral settings, on the most effective ways to counter the world drug problem consistent with the three international drug control conventions and other relevant international instruments, in order to further implement the commitments and targets set out in the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem;

49. *Reaffirms its support* for the preparations for the special session, as it is an opportunity to generate a political commitment to achieving better results in implementing comprehensive strategies by:

(a) Addressing the world drug problem and its health, social, economic and justice consequences;

(b) Reaching an effective balance between supply and demand reduction measures and integrating the need to prevent and reduce social consequences such as violence, exclusion and the breaking of social ties;

(c) Addressing new challenges, such as the emergence of new psychoactive substances, violence and insecurity resulting from illicit trafficking and production, disparities in law enforcement and the appearance of new illicit flows;

(d) Strengthening cooperation with civil society in order to achieve the universal and effective implementation of international commitments to counter the world drug problem and its negative effects;

50. *Invites* Member States, with regard to the special session, to share their experiences, new approaches and successful evidence-based practices with regard to facing the world drug problem, which may provide a basis for improving current drug policies, particularly when individuals and their surroundings are at the centre of such policies;

51. *Decides* to hold, in June 2015, a preparatory meeting for the special session, with the participation of all Member States;

52. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General,[23] and requests that he submit to the General Assembly at its seventieth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution.

[23] A/69/111.

United Nations A/C.3/69/L.16

General Assembly

Distr.: Limited
10 October 2014

Original: English

Sixty-ninth session
Third Committee
Agenda item 105
Crime prevention and criminal justice

Italy: draft resolution

Strengthening the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme, in particular its technical cooperation capacity

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming its resolutions 46/152 of 18 December 1991, 60/1 of 16 September 2005, 67/1 of 19 September 2012, 67/186, 67/189, 67/190 and 67/192 of 20 December 2012, 68/119 of 16 December 2013 and 68/185, 68/188, 68/189, 68/192 and 68/193 of 18 December 2013,

Reaffirming also its resolutions relating to the urgent need to strengthen international cooperation and technical assistance in promoting and facilitating the ratification and implementation of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto,[1] the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961 as amended by the 1972 Protocol,[2] the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971,[3] the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988,[4] the United Nations Convention against Corruption[5] and all the international conventions and protocols against terrorism,

Reaffirming further the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem[6] adopted by the General Assembly at its sixty-fourth session,

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[1] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vols. 2225, 2237, 2241 and 2326, No. 39574.
[2] Ibid., vol. 976, No. 14152.
[3] Ibid., vol. 1019, No. 14956.
[4] Ibid., vol. 1582, No. 27627.
[5] Ibid., vol. 2349, No. 42146.
[6] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2009, Supplement No. 8* (E/2009/28), chap. I, sect. C.

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Reaffirming the commitments undertaken by Member States in the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy adopted on 8 September 2006[7] and its successive biennial reviews,[8] with specific reference to resolution 68/276 of 13 June 2014,

Recalling the importance of the measures to eliminate international terrorism adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 68/119 and the adoption, on 18 December 2013, of resolution 68/178 on the protection of human rights and fundamental freedom while countering terrorism,

Reaffirming its resolutions addressing various aspects of violence against women and girls of all ages,

Recalling the resolutions of the Commission on Human Rights and the Human Rights Council addressing various aspects of violence against women and girls of all ages and General Assembly resolution 68/240 of 27 December 2013,

Recalling the agreed conclusions of the fifty-seventh session of the Commission on the Status of Women, which addressed the elimination and prevention of all forms of violence against women and girls,[9] and reiterating the importance of crime prevention and criminal justice measures for the protection of women and girls,

Noting the significance of the updated model strategies and practical measures on the elimination of violence against children in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice[10] as a way to assist countries in strengthening their national crime prevention and criminal justice capacities to respond to all forms of violence against women and girls,

Reiterating its condemnation of all forms of violence against women and girls, and expressing deep concern about gender-related killing of women and girls,

Recalling the adoption on 18 December 2013 of its resolution 68/191, entitled "Taking action against gender-related killing of women and girls", and recognizing the key role of the criminal justice system in preventing and responding to gender-related killing of women and girls, including by ending impunity for such crimes,

Emphasizing the relevance of international instruments and United Nations standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice related to the treatment of prisoners, in particular women and juveniles,

Recalling the adoption of its resolution 65/229 of 21 December 2010 on the United Nations Rules for the Treatment of Women Prisoners and Non-custodial Measures for Women Offenders (the Bangkok Rules), and in this regard encouraging the efforts of Member States to implement the Bangkok Rules,

Recalling also the adoption on 18 December 2013 of its resolution 68/156, which emphasized that States must prevent and repress all forms of torture and other

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[7] Resolution 60/288.

[8] See resolutions 62/272 of 5 September 2008, 64/297 of 8 September 2010 and 66/282 of 29 June 2012.

[9] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2013, Supplement No. 7* (E/2013/27), chap. I, sect. A.

[10] See resolution 68/189.

cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, and its resolution 68/190, concerning the setting of Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners,

Recalling further the adoption of its resolutions 67/184 of 20 December 2012 and 68/185 on the follow-up to the Twelfth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and preparations for the Thirteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, and noting that the Thirteenth Congress, dedicated to the theme "Integrating crime prevention and criminal justice into the wider United Nations agenda to address social and economic challenges and to promote the rule of law at the national and international levels, and public participation" is to be held in Doha from 12 to 19 April 2015,

Recalling its resolution 66/177 of 19 December 2011 on strengthening international cooperation in combating the harmful effects of illicit financial flows resulting from criminal activities, in which it urged States parties to the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988, the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the United Nations Convention against Corruption to apply fully the provisions of those Conventions, in particular measures to prevent and combat money-laundering, including by criminalizing the laundering of proceeds of transnational organized crime and corruption, as well as measures to enhance domestic confiscation regimes and foster international cooperation, including asset recovery,

Taking into consideration all relevant Economic and Social Council resolutions, in particular all those relating to the strengthening of international cooperation, including resolution 2014/23 of 16 July 2014 on strengthening international cooperation in addressing the smuggling of migrants, as well as the technical assistance and advisory services of the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in the fields of crime prevention and criminal justice, promotion and reinforcement of the rule of law and reform of criminal justice institutions, including with regard to the implementation of technical assistance,

Concerned at the growing involvement of organized criminal groups in all forms and aspects of trafficking in cultural property and related offences,

Recalling its resolution 66/180 of 19 December 2011 on strengthening crime prevention and criminal justice responses to protect cultural property, especially with regard to its trafficking, in which it urged Member States and relevant institutions to reinforce and fully implement mechanisms to strengthen international cooperation, including mutual legal assistance, in order to combat all forms and aspects of trafficking in cultural property and related offences, such as the theft, looting, damage, removal, pillage and destruction of cultural property, and to facilitate the recovery and the return of stolen and looted cultural property, its resolutions 67/80 of 12 December 2012 on the return or restitution of cultural property to the countries of origin and 68/186 of 18 December 2013 on strengthening crime prevention and criminal justice responses to protect cultural property, especially with regard to its trafficking,

Underlining the importance of the further progress made in this field, and welcoming the adoption of shared guidelines and the establishment of a technical

background document that will support the implementation of resolution 68/186 and facilitate operational cooperation against all forms of trafficking,

Recalling its resolution 64/293 of 30 July 2010 on the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons, reaffirming the need for the full implementation of the Global Plan of Action, expressing the view that it will, inter alia, enhance cooperation and better coordination of efforts in fighting trafficking in persons and promote increased ratification and full implementation of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime,[11] recalling in particular resolution 68/192, and welcoming the work of the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund for Victims of Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children,

Recalling also its resolution 68/179 of 18 December 2013 and the commitment of all Member States to protect and assist migrant persons, and recalling further Economic and Social Council resolution 2014/23 of 16 July 2014, entitled "Strengthening international cooperation in addressing the smuggling of migrants", as proposed by the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice at its twenty-third session,

Taking note of Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice resolutions 22/7 and 22/8[12] of 26 April 2013 on strengthening international cooperation to combat cybercrime and on promoting technical assistance and capacity-building to strengthen national measures and international cooperation against cybercrime, respectively,

Concerned at the growing trend of cybercrime and the use of technology in multiple forms of crime, including use of the Internet for online illicit drug trafficking and the use of virtual currencies in money-laundering,

Noting with appreciation the establishment by the Secretary-General of the United Nations system task force on transnational organized crime and drug trafficking for the purpose of developing within the United Nations system an effective and comprehensive approach to transnational organized crime and drug trafficking, and reaffirming the crucial role of Member States in this regard, as reflected in the Charter of the United Nations,

Expressing its grave concern about the negative effects of transnational organized crime, including smuggling of and trafficking in persons, narcotic drugs, firearms, parts and components and ammunition, on development, peace and security and human rights, and at the increasing vulnerability of States to such crime,

Convinced that the rule of law, crime prevention, criminal justice, human rights protection and sustainable development are strongly interrelated and mutually reinforcing, that the advancement of the rule of law at the national and international levels, including through crime prevention and criminal justice mechanisms, is essential for sustained and inclusive economic growth and sustainable development

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[11] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2237, No. 39547.

[12] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2013, Supplement No. 10* (E/2013/30), chap. I, sect. D.

and the full realization of all human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the right to development, all of which in turn reinforce the rule of law,

Stressing the importance of strengthened international cooperation, based on the principles of shared responsibility and in accordance with international law, in dismantling illicit networks and countering the world drug problem and transnational organized crime, including corruption, money-laundering, trafficking in persons, smuggling of migrants, trafficking in arms and other forms of organized crime, all of which threaten national security and undermine sustainable development and the rule of law,

Concerned about the serious challenges and threats posed by the illicit trafficking in firearms, their parts and components and ammunition, and concerned also about its links to other forms of transnational organized crime, including drug trafficking and other criminal activities, including terrorism,

Noting that the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime[13] and the Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Their Parts and Components and Ammunition, supplementing the Convention[14] are among the principal global legal instruments available to combat the illicit manufacture of and trafficking in firearms, their parts and components and ammunition, and noting with appreciation the increasing number of accessions to and ratifications of the Protocol,

Noting with appreciation the activities carried out, upon request, by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime through its global programme on firearms in the areas of legislative and technical assistance, capacity-building, awareness-raising and research and analysis,

Convinced of the importance of preventing youth crime, supporting the rehabilitation of young offenders and their reintegration into society, protecting child victims and witnesses, including efforts to prevent their revictimization, and addressing the needs of children of prisoners, and stressing that such responses should take into account the human rights and best interests of children and young people, as called for in the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Optional Protocols thereto,[15] where applicable, and in other relevant United Nations standards and norms in juvenile justice, where appropriate,

Concerned about the growing degree of penetration of criminal organizations and their proceeds into the economy,

Expressing concern about the growing involvement of organized criminal groups, as well as the substantial increase in the volume and rate of transnational occurrence and the range of criminal offences related to illicit trafficking in precious metals in some parts of the world and the potential use of illicit trafficking in precious metals as a source of funding for organized crime,

Deeply concerned about the connections, in some cases, between some forms of transnational organized crime and terrorism, and emphasizing the need to enhance cooperation at the national, subregional, regional and international levels in order to strengthen responses to this evolving challenge,

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[13] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2225, No. 39574.

[14] Ibid., vol. 2326, No. 39574.

[15] Ibid., vols. 1577, 2171 and 2173, No. 27531, and resolution 66/138, annex.

Recognizing that actions against transnational organized crime and terrorism are a common and shared responsibility, and stressing the need to work collectively to prevent and combat transnational organized crime, corruption and terrorism in all its forms and manifestations,

Emphasizing that transnational organized crime must be addressed with full respect for the principle of the sovereignty of States and in accordance with the rule of law as part of a comprehensive response to promote durable solutions through the promotion of human rights and more equitable socioeconomic conditions,

Expressing deep concern about environmental crimes, including trafficking in endangered and, where applicable, protected species of wild fauna and flora, and emphasizing the need to combat such crimes by strengthening international cooperation, capacity-building, criminal justice responses and law enforcement efforts,

Emphasizing that coordinated action is critical to eliminate, prevent and combat corruption and disrupt the illicit networks that drive and enable trafficking in wildlife, timber and timber products, harvested in contravention of national laws,

Encouraging Member States to develop and implement, as appropriate, comprehensive crime prevention policies, national and local strategies and action plans based on an understanding of the multiple factors that contribute to crime and to address such factors in a holistic manner, in close cooperation with all stakeholders, including civil society,

Stressing that social development should be an integral element of strategies to foster crime prevention and economic development in all States,

Recognizing the need to maintain a balance in the technical cooperation capacity of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime between all relevant priorities identified by the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council,

Recognizing that, thanks to their broad membership and wide scope of application, the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the United Nations Convention against Corruption offer an important basis for international cooperation, inter alia for extradition, mutual legal assistance and confiscation, and represents in this regard a useful tool that should be further utilized,

Mindful of the need to ensure universal adherence to and full implementation of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto, and urging States parties to make full and effective use of these instruments,

Emphasizing the importance of integrating crime prevention and criminal justice into the wider United Nations agenda to address, inter alia, social and economic challenges and to promote the rule of law at the national and international levels, and public participation,

Noting the important contribution that public-private sector cooperation can make in efforts to prevent and combat, in the tourism sector, criminal activities, including terrorism and corruption,

Recognizing the universal importance of good governance and the fight against corruption and calling for zero tolerance for corruption in all its forms, including

bribery, as well as the laundering of proceeds of corruption and other forms of economic crime,

Recalling the United Nations Convention against Corruption, which is the most comprehensive and universal instrument on corruption, and recognizing the need to continue promoting ratification or accession to the Convention and of its full implementation,

Mindful of the relevance of its resolution 68/195 of 18 December 2013, entitled "Preventing and combating corrupt practices and the transfer of proceeds of corruption, facilitating asset recovery and returning such assets to legitimate owners, in particular to countries of origin, in accordance with the United Nations Convention against Corruption",

Welcoming the adoption by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime of a regional approach to programming, based on continuing consultations and partnerships at the national and regional levels, particularly on its implementation, and focused on ensuring that the Office responds in a sustainable and coherent manner to the priorities of Member States,

Recognizing the general progress made by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in the delivery of advisory services and assistance to requesting Member States in the areas of crime prevention and criminal justice reform, corruption, organized crime, money-laundering, terrorism, kidnapping, smuggling of migrants and trafficking in persons, including the support and protection, as appropriate, of victims, their families and witnesses, as well as drug trafficking and international cooperation, with special emphasis on extradition and mutual legal assistance and the international transfer of sentenced persons,

Reiterating its concern regarding the overall financial situation of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General prepared pursuant to resolutions 64/293, 68/187, 68/188, 68/192, 68/193 and 68/195;[16]

2. *Reaffirms* that the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto[1] represent the most important tools of the international community for fighting transnational organized crime;

3. *Notes with appreciation* that the number of States parties to the Convention has reached 182, which is a significant indication of the commitment shown by the international community to combatting transnational organized crime;

4. *Urges* Member States that have not yet done so to consider ratifying or acceding to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto, the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961 as amended by the 1972 Protocol,[2] the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971,[3] the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988,[4] the United Nations Convention against Corruption[5] and the international conventions and protocols related to terrorism, and urges States parties to those conventions and protocols to make efforts towards their full implementation;

[16] A/69/94.

5. *Reiterates* the need for the establishment of, inter alia, a transparent, efficient, non-intrusive, inclusive and impartial mechanism for the review of the implementation of the Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto, aimed at assisting States parties in the full and effective application of those instruments, and, bearing in mind the urgent need to improve the implementation of the Convention and the Protocols thereto, invites Member States to continue the dialogue regarding the establishment of such a mechanism;

6. *Requests* Member States to complete the process of revision of the standard minimum rules for the treatment of prisoners, as mandated by the General Assembly in its resolution 65/230 of 21 December 2010, and to strengthen penal reform efforts to address the widespread and critical issue of prison overcrowding;

7. *Notes with appreciation* the work of the open-ended intergovernmental expert group to conduct a comprehensive study of the problem of cybercrime and responses to it by Member States, the international community and the private sector, including the exchange of information on national legislation, best practices, technical assistance and international cooperation, with a view to examining options to strengthen existing and to propose new national and international, legal or other responses to cybercrime, and encourages the expert group to enhance its efforts to complete its work and to present the outcome of the study to the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice in due course;

8. *Reaffirms* the importance of the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme in promoting effective action to strengthen international cooperation in crime prevention and criminal justice, as well as of the work of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in the fulfilment of its mandate in crime prevention and criminal justice, including providing to Member States, upon request and as a matter of high priority, technical cooperation, advisory services and other forms of assistance, and coordinating with and complementing the work of all relevant and competent United Nations bodies and offices;

9. *Underscores* that the post-2015 development agenda should be guided by respect for and promotion of the rule of law, and that crime prevention and criminal justice have an important role in that regard;

10. *Recommends* that Member States, as appropriate to their national contexts, adopt a comprehensive and integrated approach to crime prevention and criminal justice reform, based on baseline assessments and data collection and focusing on all sectors of the justice system, and develop crime prevention policies, strategies and programmes, including ones that focus on early prevention by using multidisciplinary and participatory approaches, in close cooperation with all stakeholders, including civil society, and requests the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to continue to provide technical assistance, upon request, to Member States for this purpose;

11. *Encourages* all States to have national and local action plans for crime prevention in order to take into account, in a comprehensive, integrated and participatory manner, inter alia, factors that place certain populations and places at higher risk of victimization and/or of offending and to ensure that such plans are based on the best available evidence and good practices, and stresses that crime prevention should be considered an integral element of strategies to foster social and economic development in all States;

12. *Calls upon* Member States to strengthen their efforts to cooperate, as appropriate, at the bilateral, subregional, regional and international levels to counter transnational organized crime effectively;

13. *Requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to enhance its efforts, within existing resources and within its mandate, in providing technical assistance and advisory services for the implementation of its regional and subregional programmes in a coordinated manner with relevant Member States and regional and subregional organizations;

14. *Also requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to continue to provide, within its mandate, technical assistance to Member States, upon their request, in the areas of crime prevention and criminal justice, with a view to strengthening the capacity of national criminal justice systems to investigate, prosecute and punish all forms of crime, while protecting the human rights and fundamental freedoms of defendants, as well as the legitimate interests of victims and witnesses, and to ensure access to effective legal aid in criminal justice systems;

15. *Encourages* Member States to support the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in strengthening its programme of technical assistance in relation to cybercrime;

16. *Emphasizes* the importance of protecting persons in vulnerable groups or situations, and in that regard expresses its concern about the increase in the activities of transnational and national organized criminal groups and others who profit from crimes against migrants, especially women and children, without regard for dangerous and inhumane conditions and in flagrant violation of national laws and international law;

17. *Calls upon* Member States to increase cooperation in the fight against migrant smuggling and to pursue the criminal networks involved in this crime while assisting smuggled persons whose life and safety are in danger and upholding their rights;

18. *Encourages* Member States, in investigating and prosecuting the smuggling of migrants, to strongly consider financial investigations, with a view to tracing, freezing and confiscating proceeds acquired through such crimes, including those committed by criminal and terrorist organizations, and to consider the smuggling of migrants to be a predicate offence for money-laundering;

19. *Emphasizes* the importance of combating trafficking in persons for the purpose of extracting organs, and in that regard expresses its concern about the increase in the activities of transnational and national organized criminal groups and others who profit from such crimes;

20. *Invites* Member States to strengthen the crime prevention and criminal justice response to the gender-related killing of women and girls, in particular measures to support the capacity of Member States to prevent, investigate, prosecute and punish all forms of such crime;

21. *Urges* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to continue to provide technical assistance to Member States to combat money-laundering and the financing of terrorism through the Global Programme against Money-Laundering, Proceeds of Crime and the Financing of Terrorism, in accordance with United Nations-related instruments and internationally accepted standards, including, where

applicable, recommendations of relevant intergovernmental bodies, inter alia, the Financial Action Task Force and relevant initiatives of regional, interregional and multilateral organizations against money-laundering;

22. *Urges* Member States to strengthen bilateral, regional and international cooperation to enable the return of assets illicitly acquired from corruption to the countries of origin, upon their request, in accordance with the provisions of the United Nations Convention against Corruption for asset recovery, in particular chapter V, requests the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, within its existing mandate, to continue providing assistance to bilateral, regional and international efforts for that purpose, and also urges Member States to combat and penalize corruption, as well as the laundering of its proceeds;

23. *Notes* the progress achieved by the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption in the implementation of their respective mandates, and encourages Member States to give full effect to the resolutions adopted by those bodies;

24. *Requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to continue to foster international and regional cooperation, including by facilitating the development of regional networks active in the field of legal and law enforcement cooperation in the fight against transnational organized crime, where appropriate, and by promoting cooperation among all such networks, including by providing technical assistance where it is required, and recognizes the efforts made by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to establish and assist such networks;

25. *Urges* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to increase collaboration with intergovernmental, international and regional organizations that have transnational organized crime mandates, as appropriate, in order to share best practices, foster cooperation and take advantage of their unique and comparative advantage;

26. *Recognizes* the efforts made by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to assist Member States in developing their abilities and strengthening their capacity to prevent and combat kidnapping, and requests the Office to continue to provide technical assistance with a view to fostering international cooperation, in particular mutual legal assistance, aimed at countering effectively this growing serious crime;

27. *Draws attention* to the emerging policy issues identified in the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the mandates of the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme, with particular reference to the technical cooperation activities of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, namely, piracy, cybercrime, the use of new information technologies to abuse and exploit children, trafficking in cultural property, illicit financial flows, environmental crime, including illicit trafficking in endangered species of wild fauna and flora, and identity-related crime, and invites the Office to explore, within its mandate, ways and means of addressing those issues, bearing in mind Economic and Social Council resolution 2012/12 of 26 July 2012 on the strategy for the period 2012-2015 for the Office;

28. *Invites* Member States and requests the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, within its existing mandate, to continue strengthening the regular

collection, analysis and dissemination of accurate, reliable and comparable data and information, including, as appropriate, data disaggregated by sex, age and other relevant criteria, and strongly encourages Member States to share such data and information with the Office;

29. *Requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to continue developing, in close cooperation with Member States, technical and methodological tools and trend analyses and studies to enhance knowledge on crime trends and support Member States in designing appropriate responses in specific areas of crime, in particular in their transnational dimension, taking into account the need to make the best possible use of existing resources;

30. *Urges* Member States and relevant international organizations to develop national and regional strategies, as appropriate, and other necessary measures, in cooperation with the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme, to address effectively transnational organized crime, including drug trafficking, trafficking in persons, smuggling of migrants and illicit manufacturing of and trafficking in firearms, as well as corruption and terrorism;

31. *Requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to continue to assist Member States, upon request, in combating the illicit manufacturing of and trafficking in firearms, their parts and components and ammunition and to support them in their efforts to address the links of such activities to other forms of transnational organized crime, though, inter alia, legislative assistance, technical support and enhanced data collection and analysis;

32. *Encourages* Member States to enhance the effectiveness of countering criminal threats to the tourism sector, including terrorist threats through, when appropriate, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and other relevant international organizations, in cooperation with the World Tourism Organization and the private sector;

33. *Urges* States parties to use the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime for broad cooperation in preventing and combating all forms and aspects of trafficking in cultural property and related offences, especially in returning such proceeds of crime or property to their legitimate owners, in accordance with article 14, paragraph 2, of the Convention, and invites States parties to exchange information on all forms and aspects of trafficking in cultural property and related offences, in accordance with their national laws, and to coordinate administrative and other measures taken, as appropriate, for the prevention, early detection and punishment of such offences, taking into account the resolutions adopted on this item by the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice at its twenty-third session;[17]

34. *Urges* Member States to introduce effective national and international measures to prevent and combat illicit trafficking in cultural property, including publicizing legislation, international guidelines and related technical background documents and offering special training for police, customs and border services, and to consider such trafficking a serious crime, as defined in the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime;

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[17] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2014, Supplement No. 10* (E/2014/30).

35. *Urges* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to continue to assist Member States, upon request, in combating illicit trafficking in firearms, their parts and components and ammunition, and to support them in their efforts to address its links with other forms of transnational organized crime, through, inter alia, technical assistance;

36. *Reaffirms*, the importance of Member States making illicit trafficking in protected species of wild fauna and flora involving organized criminal groups a serious crime, as defined in article 2, paragraph (b), of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, in order to ensure that adequate and effective means of international cooperation can be afforded under the Convention in the investigation and prosecution of those engaged in illicit trafficking in protected species of wild fauna and flora;

37. *Strongly encourages* Member States to take appropriate measures, consistent with their domestic legislation and legal frameworks, to strengthen law enforcement and related efforts to combat individuals and groups, including organized criminal groups, operating within their borders, with a view to preventing, combating and eradicating international trafficking in wildlife, forest products, including timber, and other forest biological resources harvested in contravention of national laws and relevant international instruments;

38. *Calls upon* Member States to take appropriate and effective measures to prevent and combat illicit trafficking in precious metals by organized criminal groups, including, where appropriate, the adoption and effective implementation of the necessary legislation for the prevention, investigation and prosecution of illicit trafficking in precious metals;

39. *Reaffirms* the importance of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and its regional offices in building capacity at the local level in the fight against transnational organized crime and drug trafficking, and urges the Office to consider regional vulnerabilities, projects and impact in the fight against transnational organized crime, in particular in developing countries, when deciding to close and allocate offices, with a view to maintaining an effective level of support to national and regional efforts in those areas;

40. *Encourages* Member States to continue supporting the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in providing targeted technical assistance, within its existing mandate, to enhance the capacity of affected States, upon their request, to combat piracy and other forms of crime committed at sea, including by assisting Member States in creating an effective law enforcement response and strengthening their judicial capacity;

41. *Encourages* States parties to continue to provide full support to the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption and their subsidiary bodies, including providing information to the conferences of the parties to the conventions regarding compliance with the treaties;

42. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to provide the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime with adequate resources to promote, in an effective manner, the implementation of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961 as amended by

the 1972 Protocol, the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971, the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988 and the United Nations Convention against Corruption, and to discharge its functions as the secretariat of the conferences of the parties to the conventions, the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, as well as the United Nations congresses on crime prevention and criminal justice, in accordance with its mandate;

43. *Reiterates its request* to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to enhance its technical assistance to Member States, upon request, to strengthen international cooperation in preventing and combating terrorism through the facilitation of the ratification and implementation of the universal conventions and protocols related to terrorism, in close consultation with the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1373 (2001) concerning counter-terrorism (the Counter-Terrorism Committee) and its Executive Directorate, as well as to continue to contribute to the work of the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force, and invites Member States to provide the Office with appropriate resources for its mandate;

44. *Requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to continue to provide technical assistance to Member States, upon request, to strengthen the rule of law, taking also into account the work undertaken by the Rule of Law Coordination and Resource Group of the Secretariat and other relevant United Nations bodies;

45. *Encourages* Member States to take relevant measures, as appropriate to their national contexts, to ensure the diffusion, use and application of the United Nations standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice, including the consideration and, where they deem it necessary, dissemination of existing manuals and handbooks developed and published by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime;

46. *Urges* States parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption to continue to provide full support to the review mechanism adopted by the Conference of the States Parties to the Convention;

47. *Urges* Member States to be represented at the Thirteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice at the highest possible level, and encourages States to continue their preparations for the Congress with a view to making focused and productive contributions to the discussions;

48. *Requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, in collaboration and close consultation with Member States and within existing resources, to continue to support the enhancement of capacity and skills in the field of forensic sciences, including the setting of standards, and the development of technical assistance material for training, such as manuals, compilations of useful practices and guidelines and scientific and forensic reference material, for law enforcement officials and prosecution authorities, and to promote and facilitate the establishment and sustainability of regional networks of forensic science providers in order to enhance their expertise and capacity to prevent and combat transnational organized crime;

49. *Reiterates* the importance of providing the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme with sufficient, stable and predictable

funding for the full implementation of its mandates, in conformity with the high priority accorded to it and in accordance with the increasing demand for its services, in particular with regard to the provision of increased assistance to developing countries, countries with economies in transition and countries emerging from conflict, in the area of crime prevention and criminal justice reform;

50. *Urges* all Member States to provide the fullest possible financial and political support to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime by widening its donor base and increasing voluntary contributions, in particular general-purpose contributions, so as to enable it to continue, expand, improve and strengthen, within its mandates, its operational and technical cooperation activities;

51. *Invites* States and other interested parties to make further voluntary contributions to the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund for Victims of Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, and the United Nations Trust Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery;

52. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a report to the General Assembly at its seventieth session on the implementation of the mandates of the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme, reflecting also emerging policy issues and possible responses;

53. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to include in the report referred to in paragraph 52 above information on the status of ratifications or accessions to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto.

United Nations A/C.3/69/L.17

General Assembly

Distr.: Limited
10 October 2014

Original: English

Sixty-ninth session
Third Committee
Agenda item 105
Crime prevention and criminal justice

Malawi:* draft resolution

United Nations African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 68/194 of 18 December 2013 and all other relevant resolutions,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General,[1]

Bearing in mind that weaknesses in crime prevention lead to subsequent difficulties at the level of crime control mechanisms, and bearing in mind also the urgent need to establish effective crime prevention strategies for Africa, as well as the importance of law enforcement agencies and the judiciary at the regional and subregional levels,

Aware of the devastating impact of new and more dynamic crime trends on the national economies of African States, such as the high levels of transnational organized crime being recorded in Africa, including the utilization of digital technology to commit all types of cybercrime, and aware also of illicit trafficking in cultural property, drugs, precious metals, rhinoceros horns and ivory, of piracy and money-laundering, and of the fact that crime is a major obstacle to harmonious and sustainable development in Africa,

Emphasizing that combating crime is a collective endeavour to meet the global challenge of organized crime and that investment of necessary resources in crime prevention is important to that aim and contributes to sustainable development,

Noting with concern that in most African countries the existing criminal justice system does not have sufficiently skilled personnel and adequate infrastructure and is therefore ill-equipped to manage the emergence of new crime trends, and

* On behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of African States.

[1] A/69/92.

Please recycle

acknowledging the challenges that Africa faces in litigation processes and the management of correctional institutions,

Recognizing that the United Nations African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders is a focal point for all professional efforts aimed at promoting the active cooperation and collaboration of Governments, academics, institutions and scientific and professional organizations and experts in crime prevention and criminal justice,

Bearing in mind the revised African Union Plan of Action on Drug Control and Crime Prevention (2013-2017), aimed at encouraging Member States to participate in and own the regional initiatives for effective crime prevention and good governance and strengthened justice administration,

Recognizing the importance of promoting sustainable development as a complement to crime prevention strategies,

Emphasizing the need to create necessary coalitions with all partners in the process of achieving effective crime prevention policies,

Welcoming the undertaking and conclusion of a preliminary diagnostic study by a consultant of the Economic Commission for Africa prior to the commencement of a full system-wide review process, including the significance of the Institute as a viable mechanism for promoting cooperation among the relevant entities to respond to the crime problem afflicting Africa,

Expressing concern over the resignation in May 2013 of the newly recruited Director of the Institute owing to unsatisfactory conditions of service, and its likely negative impact on the activities of the Institute,

Noting with concern that the financial situation of the Institute has greatly affected its capacity to deliver services to African Member States in an effective and comprehensive manner, and noting that one of the findings of the diagnostic preliminary study is that the Institute urgently needs to increase its income,

Acknowledging the Member States and organizations that have maintained their commitment to the fulfilment of their financial obligations,

1. *Commends* the United Nations African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders for its efforts to promote, coordinate and carry out more activities within its core mandate, including regional technical cooperation related to crime prevention and criminal justice systems in Africa, despite the resource constraints under which it is operating;

2. *Also commends* the initiative of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in strengthening its working relationship with the Institute by supporting and involving the Institute in the implementation of a number of activities, including those contained in the revised African Union Plan of Action on Drug Control and Crime Prevention (2013-2017), on strengthening the rule of law and criminal justice systems in Africa;

3. *Reiterates* the need to strengthen further the capacity of the Institute to support national mechanisms for crime prevention and criminal justice in African countries;

4. *Also reiterates* the benefits, in some cases, of the utilization of alternative remedial measures, where appropriate, applying standards of ethical conduct and using local traditions, counselling and other emerging correctional rehabilitation measures, consistent with the obligations of States under international law;

5. *Notes* the efforts of the Institute to establish contacts with organizations in those countries which are promoting crime prevention programmes and its maintenance of close links with regional and subregional political entities, such as the African Union Commission, the East African Community, the Commission of the Economic Community of West African States, the Intergovernmental Authority on Development and the Southern African Development Community;

6. *Encourages* the Institute, in cooperation with relevant United Nations agencies, to take into account the various planning authorities in the region that focus attention on the coordination of activities that promote development based on sustainable agricultural production and preservation of the environment in developing its crime prevention strategies;

7. *Urges* the States members of the Institute to continue to make every possible effort to meet their obligations to the Institute;

8. *Welcomes* the undertaking and conclusion of a preliminary diagnostic study in accordance with the decision of the Governing Board of the Institute, at its eleventh ordinary session, held in Nairobi on 27 and 28 April 2011, to carry out a review of the Institute to ensure that it can fulfil its mandate and assume a more prominent role in dealing with existing crime;

9. *Encourages* the Institute, partner agencies and other stakeholders to expedite the review process;

10. *Welcomes* the introduction by the Institute of a cost-sharing initiative in its execution of various programmes with Member States, partners and United Nations entities;

11. *Urges* all Member States and non-governmental organizations and the international community to continue adopting concrete practical measures to support the Institute in the development of the requisite capacity and in the implementation of its programmes and activities aimed at strengthening crime prevention and criminal justice systems in Africa;

12. *Urges* all States that have not already done so to consider ratifying or acceding to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto,[2] as well as the United Nations Convention against Corruption;[3]

13. *Encourages* African States that are not yet members of the Institute to consider becoming member States in order to strengthen the fight against crime and terrorism, which hamper individual and collective development efforts on the continent;

14. *Commends* the continued support provided by the Government of Uganda as host country, including resolving the issue of the ownership of the land on which

[2] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vols. 2225, 2237, 2241 and 2326, No. 39574.

[3] Ibid., vol. 2349, No. 42146.

the Institute is located and facilitating the Institute's collaboration with other stakeholders within Uganda and the region and with international partners;

15. *Also commends* the efforts of the Institute in implementing several programmes in the region, which have contributed, inter alia, to a growing set of coordinated remedial responses to crime on the basis of technical support in facilitating mutual assistance by law enforcement agencies and the emergence of regional jurisdictions;

16. *Requests* the Secretary-General to intensify efforts to mobilize all relevant entities of the United Nations system to provide the necessary financial and technical support to the Institute to enable it to fulfil its mandate, bearing in mind that the precarious financial situation of the Institute greatly undermines its capacity to deliver services effectively;

17. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to continue his efforts to mobilize the financial resources necessary to maintain the Institute with the core Professional staff required to enable it to function effectively in the fulfilment of its mandated obligations;

18. *Encourages* the Institute to consider focusing on specific and general vulnerabilities of each programme country and to maximize the use of available initiatives to address crime problems with existing funds, as well as available capacity, by creating useful coalitions with regional and local institutions;

19. *Requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to continue to work closely with the Institute, and requests the Institute to provide the annual report on its activities to the Office as well as to the Economic Commission for Africa Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development;

20. *Requests* the Secretary-General to enhance the promotion of regional cooperation, coordination and collaboration in the fight against crime, especially in its transnational dimension, which cannot be dealt with adequately by national action alone;

21. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to continue making concrete proposals, including for the provision of additional core Professional staff, to strengthen the programmes and activities of the Institute, and to report to the General Assembly at its seventieth session on the implementation of the present resolution.

United Nations A/C.3/69/L.17/Rev.1

General Assembly

Distr.: Limited
21 October 2014

Original: English

Sixty-ninth session
Third Committee
Agenda item 105
Crime prevention and criminal justice

Malawi:* draft resolution

United Nations African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 68/194 of 18 December 2013 and all other relevant resolutions,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General,[1]

Bearing in mind that weaknesses in crime prevention lead to subsequent difficulties at the level of crime control mechanisms, and bearing in mind also the urgent need to establish effective crime prevention strategies for Africa, as well as the importance of law enforcement agencies and the judiciary at the regional and subregional levels,

Aware of the devastating impact of new and more dynamic crime trends on the national economies of African States, such as the high levels of transnational organized crime being recorded in Africa, including the utilization of digital technology to commit all types of cybercrime, and aware also of illicit trafficking in cultural property, drugs, precious metals, rhinoceros horns and ivory, of piracy and money-laundering, and of the fact that crime is a major obstacle to harmonious and sustainable development in Africa,

Emphasizing that combating crime is a collective endeavour to meet the global challenge of organized crime and that investment of necessary resources in crime prevention is important to that aim and contributes to sustainable development,

Noting with concern that in most African countries the existing criminal justice system does not have sufficiently skilled personnel and adequate infrastructure and is therefore ill-equipped to manage the emergence of new crime trends, and

* On behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of African States.

[1] A/69/92.

Please recycle

acknowledging the challenges that Africa faces in litigation processes and the management of correctional institutions,

Recognizing that the United Nations African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders is a focal point for all professional efforts aimed at promoting the active cooperation and collaboration of Governments, academics, institutions and scientific and professional organizations and experts in crime prevention and criminal justice,

Bearing in mind the revised African Union Plan of Action on Drug Control and Crime Prevention (2013-2017), aimed at encouraging Member States to participate in and own the regional initiatives for effective crime prevention and good governance and strengthened justice administration,

Recognizing the importance of promoting sustainable development as a complement to crime prevention strategies,

Emphasizing the need to create necessary coalitions with all partners in the process of achieving effective crime prevention policies,

Welcoming the undertaking and conclusion of a preliminary diagnostic study by a consultant of the Economic Commission for Africa prior to the commencement of a full system-wide review process, including the significance of the Institute as a viable mechanism for promoting cooperation among the relevant entities to respond to the crime problem afflicting Africa,

Expressing concern over the continued absence of a director of the Institute, and noting the important role of such senior management positions in ensuring the normal functioning of the Institute,

Noting with concern that the financial situation of the Institute has greatly affected its capacity to deliver services to African Member States in an effective and comprehensive manner, and noting that one of the findings of the diagnostic preliminary study is that the Institute urgently needs to increase its income,

Acknowledging the Member States and organizations that have maintained their commitment to the fulfilment of their financial obligations,

1. *Commends* the United Nations African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders for its efforts to promote, coordinate and carry out more activities within its core mandate, including regional technical cooperation related to crime prevention and criminal justice systems in Africa, despite the resource constraints under which it is operating;

2. *Also commends* the initiative of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in strengthening its working relationship with the Institute by supporting and involving the Institute in the implementation of a number of activities, including those contained in the revised African Union Plan of Action on Drug Control and Crime Prevention (2013-2017), on strengthening the rule of law and criminal justice systems in Africa;

3. *Reiterates* the need to strengthen further the capacity of the Institute to support national mechanisms for crime prevention and criminal justice in African countries;

4. *Also reiterates* the benefits, in some cases, of the utilization of alternative remedial measures, where appropriate, applying standards of ethical conduct and using local traditions, counselling and other emerging correctional rehabilitation measures, consistent with the obligations of States under international law;

5. *Notes* the efforts of the Institute to establish contacts with organizations in those countries which are promoting crime prevention programmes and its maintenance of close links with regional and subregional political entities, such as the African Union Commission, the East African Community, the Commission of the Economic Community of West African States, the Intergovernmental Authority on Development and the Southern African Development Community;

6. *Encourages* the Institute, in cooperation with relevant United Nations agencies, to take into account the various planning authorities in the region that focus attention on the coordination of activities that promote development based on sustainable agricultural production and preservation of the environment in developing its crime prevention strategies;

7. *Urges* the States members of the Institute to continue to make every possible effort to meet their obligations to the Institute;

8. *Welcomes* the undertaking and conclusion of a preliminary diagnostic study in accordance with the decision of the Governing Board of the Institute, at its eleventh ordinary session, held in Nairobi on 27 and 28 April 2011, to carry out a review of the Institute to ensure that it can fulfil its mandate and assume a more prominent role in dealing with existing crime;

9. *Encourages* the Institute, partner agencies and other stakeholders to expedite the review process;

10. *Welcomes* the introduction by the Institute of a cost-sharing initiative in its execution of various programmes with Member States, partners and United Nations entities;

11. *Urges* all Member States and non-governmental organizations and the international community to continue adopting concrete practical measures to support the Institute in the development of the requisite capacity and in the implementation of its programmes and activities aimed at strengthening crime prevention and criminal justice systems in Africa;

12. *Urges* all States that have not already done so to consider ratifying or acceding to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto,[2] as well as the United Nations Convention against Corruption;[3]

13. *Encourages* African States that are not yet members of the Institute to consider becoming member States in order to strengthen the fight against crime and terrorism, which hamper individual and collective development efforts on the continent;

14. *Commends* the continued support provided by the Government of Uganda as host country, including resolving the issue of the ownership of the land on which

[2] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vols. 2225, 2237, 2241 and 2326, No. 39574.

[3] Ibid., vol. 2349, No. 42146.

the Institute is located and facilitating the Institute's collaboration with other stakeholders within Uganda and the region and with international partners;

15. *Also commends* the efforts of the Institute in implementing several programmes in the region, which have contributed, inter alia, to a growing set of coordinated remedial responses to crime on the basis of technical support in facilitating mutual assistance by law enforcement agencies and the emergence of regional jurisdictions;

16. *Requests* the Secretary-General to intensify efforts to mobilize all relevant entities of the United Nations system to provide the necessary financial and technical support to the Institute to enable it to fulfil its mandate, bearing in mind that the precarious financial situation of the Institute greatly undermines its capacity to deliver services effectively;

17. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to continue his efforts to mobilize the financial resources necessary to maintain the Institute with the core Professional staff required to enable it to function effectively in the fulfilment of its mandated obligations;

18. *Encourages* the Institute to consider focusing on specific and general vulnerabilities of each programme country and to maximize the use of available initiatives to address crime problems with existing funds, as well as available capacity, by creating useful coalitions with regional and local institutions;

19. *Requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to continue to work closely with the Institute, and requests the Institute to provide the annual report on its activities to the Office as well as to the Economic Commission for Africa Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development;

20. *Requests* the Secretary-General to enhance the promotion of regional cooperation, coordination and collaboration in the fight against crime, especially in its transnational dimension, which cannot be dealt with adequately by national action alone;

21. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to continue making concrete proposals, including for the provision of additional core Professional staff, to strengthen the programmes and activities of the Institute, and to report to the General Assembly at its seventieth session on the implementation of the present resolution.

United Nations A/C.3/69/L.18

General Assembly

Distr.: Limited
13 October 2014

Original: English

Sixty-ninth session
Third Committee
Agenda item 105
Crime prevention and criminal justice

Colombia: draft resolution

Preventing and combating corrupt practices and the transfer of proceeds of corruption, facilitating asset recovery and returning such assets to legitimate owners, in particular to countries of origin, in accordance with the United Nations Convention against Corruption

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 54/205 of 22 December 1999, 55/61 of 4 December 2000, 55/188 of 20 December 2000, 56/186 of 21 December 2001 and 57/244 of 20 December 2002, and recalling also its resolutions 58/205 of 23 December 2003, 59/242 of 22 December 2004, 60/207 of 22 December 2005, 61/209 of 20 December 2006, 62/202 of 19 December 2007, 63/226 of 19 December 2008, 64/237 of 24 December 2009, 65/169 of 20 December 2010, 67/189 and 67/192 of 20 December 2012 and 68/195 of 18 December 2013 and all relevant Human Rights Council resolutions,

Welcoming the entry into force on 14 December 2005 of the United Nations Convention against Corruption,[1]

Recalling the United Nations Convention against Corruption, which is the most comprehensive and universal instrument on corruption, and recognizing the need to continue to promote ratification or accession to the Convention and its full implementation,

Recalling also that asset recovery is an integral part of the Convention,

Recalling further article 51 of the Convention, which obligates States parties to the Convention to afford one another the widest measure of cooperation and assistance with regard to asset return,

[1] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2349, No. 42146.

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Recognizing that fighting corruption at all levels is a priority and that corruption is a serious barrier to effective resource mobilization and allocation and diverts resources away from activities that are vital for poverty eradication and sustainable development,

Reaffirming the importance of respect for human rights, the rule of law, good governance and democracy in the fight against corruption,

Recognizing that supportive national legal systems are essential in preventing and combating corrupt practices, facilitating asset recovery and returning the proceeds of corruption to legitimate owners,

Bearing in mind the need to promote and strengthen measures to prevent and combat corruption more efficiently and effectively, that the return of assets is one of the main objectives and a fundamental principle of the Convention and that the States parties to the Convention are obligated to afford one another the widest measure of cooperation in that regard,

Recalling the purposes of the Convention, including to promote the integrity, accountability and proper management of public affairs and public property,

Reaffirming the commitment of States parties to the Convention, and determined to give effect to the obligations set out in chapter V of the Convention in order to prevent, detect, deter and recover in a more effective manner the international transfer of proceeds of crime and to strengthen international cooperation in asset recovery,

Recognizing that those who engage in corrupt acts, whether natural or legal persons, consistent with domestic law and the requirements of the Convention, should be held accountable and prosecuted by their domestic authorities, and that all efforts should be made to conduct a financial investigation into assets illegally acquired by them and to recover such assets through domestic confiscation proceedings, international cooperation for purposes of confiscation or appropriate direct recovery measures,

Acknowledging that the fight against all forms of corruption requires comprehensive anti-corruption frameworks and strong institutions at all levels, including at the local and international levels, able to undertake efficient preventive and law enforcement measures in accordance with the Convention, in particular chapters II and III thereof,

Recognizing that the success of the Mechanism for the Review of Implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption depends on the full commitment and constructive engagement of all States parties to the Convention in a progressive and comprehensive process, and recalling in that regard resolution 3/1 of 13 November 2009 of the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption,[2] including the terms of reference of the Mechanism contained in the annex to that resolution,

Noting with appreciation that more than 160 States parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption have been involved in the ongoing review process and the support provided by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in this regard,

[2] See CAC/COSP/2009/15, sect. I.A.

Bearing in mind that the prevention and eradication of corruption is a responsibility of all States and that they must cooperate with one another, with the support and involvement of individuals and groups outside the public sector, such as civil society, non-governmental organizations and community-based organizations, if their efforts in this area are to be effective,

Reaffirming its concern about the laundering and transfer of stolen assets and proceeds of corruption, and stressing the need to address this concern in accordance with the Convention,

Noting the efforts made by all States parties to the Convention in tracing, freezing and recovering their stolen assets, and underlining the need to redouble efforts to assist in the recovery of those assets in order to preserve stability and sustainable development,

Noting also the work of other initiatives in asset recovery, such as the Arab Forum on Asset Recovery, and welcoming efforts to enhance cooperation between requesting and requested States,

Recognizing that States continue to face challenges in recovering assets owing to differences between legal systems the complexity of multijurisdictional investigations and prosecutions, the limited implementation of effective domestic tools such as non-conviction-based forfeiture for asset recovery, as well as other administrative or civil procedures leading to confiscation, lack of familiarity with the mutual legal assistance procedures of other States and difficulties in identifying the flow of corruption proceeds, and noting the particular challenges posed in recovering the proceeds of corruption in cases involving individuals who are or have been entrusted with prominent public functions, as well as their family members and close associates,

Concerned about the difficulties, particularly the legal and practical difficulties, that both requested and requesting States face in asset recovery, taking into account the particular importance of the recovery of stolen assets for sustainable development and stability, and noting the difficulty of providing information establishing a link between proceeds of corruption in the requested State and the crime committed in the requesting State, which in many cases can be difficult to prove,

Recognizing the common difficulties experienced by States parties to the Convention in establishing a nexus between identified assets and the crime from which such assets are derived, and emphasizing the critical importance of effective domestic investigative efforts and international cooperation to overcome such difficulties,

Recognizing also the critical importance of effective international cooperation in efforts to combat corruption, particularly with respect to offences specified in the Convention with a transnational element, and encouraging continued cooperation by States parties, consistent with the requirements of the Convention, in all efforts to investigate and prosecute natural and legal persons, including the use of other legal mechanisms, where appropriate, for offences specified in the Convention and to recover assets related to such offences, consistent with chapter V of the Convention,

Calling upon all States parties to the Convention and, in particular, requested and requesting States, to cooperate to recover the proceeds of corruption and

demonstrate strong commitment to ensure the return or disposal of such proceeds in accordance with article 57 of the Convention,

Noting the responsibility of requesting and requested States parties to cooperate to ensure that a greater proportion of the proceeds emanating from corruption are recovered, returned or otherwise disposed of in accordance with the provisions of the Convention,

Taking into account the need to hold corrupt officials accountable by depriving them of their stolen assets,

Reiterating its concern about the seriousness of problems and threats posed by corruption to the stability and security of societies, undermining the institutions and the values of democracy, ethical values and justice and jeopardizing sustainable development and the rule of law, in particular when an inadequate national and international response leads to impunity,

Concerned about the negative impact of widespread corruption on the enjoyment of human rights, recognizing that corruption constitutes one of the obstacles to the effective promotion and protection of human rights, as well as to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and other internationally agreed development goals, and recognizing also that corruption may disproportionately affect the most disadvantaged individuals of society,

Noting with appreciation the ongoing efforts by regional organizations and forums to strengthen cooperation in combating corruption, which aim, inter alia, to ensure openness and transparency, combat domestic and foreign bribery, tackle corruption in high-risk sectors, strengthen international cooperation and promote public integrity and transparency in the fight against corruption, which fuels illicit trade and insecurity and is a tremendous barrier to economic growth and the safety of citizens,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;[3]

2. *Condemns* corruption at all levels and in all its forms, including bribery, as well as the laundering of proceeds of corruption and other forms of economic crime;

3. *Expresses concern* about the magnitude of corruption at all levels, including the scale of stolen assets and proceeds of corruption, and in this regard reiterates its commitment to preventing and combating corrupt practices at all levels, in accordance with the United Nations Convention against Corruption;[1]

4. *Welcomes* the significant number of Member States that have already ratified or acceded to the Convention, and in this regard urges all Member States and competent regional economic integration organizations, within the limits of their competence, that have not yet done so to consider ratifying or acceding to the Convention as a matter of priority, and urges all States parties to take appropriate measures to ensure its full and effective implementation;

5. *Notes with appreciation* the work carried out under the Mechanism for the Review of Implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption and by the Implementation Review Group, and urges Member States to continue to support this work and make every possible effort to provide comprehensive

[3] A/69/94.

information and adhere to the timelines for review as contained in the guidelines for governmental experts and the secretariat in the conduct of country reviews;[4]

6. *Welcomes* the progress made in the first review cycle of the Mechanism and the efforts made by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in support of the Mechanism, and encourages the use of the lessons learned during the first review cycle in order to improve the implementation of the Convention;

7. *Encourages* Member States to engage actively in the preparation of the review of chapter II, on prevention measures, and chapter V, on asset recovery, of the United Nations Convention against Corruption in the second review cycle of the Mechanism;

8. *Notes with appreciation* the work of the Open-ended Intergovernmental Working Groups on Asset Recovery, on the Prevention of Corruption and on Review of the Implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption and the open-ended intergovernmental expert meeting to enhance international cooperation under the United Nations Convention against Corruption, and calls upon States parties to the Convention to support the work of all of the subsidiary bodies of the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption;

9. *Renews* the commitment of all States parties to the Convention to effective national action and international cooperation to give full effect to chapter V of the Convention and to contribute effectively to the recovery of the proceeds of corruption;

10. *Urges* Member States to combat and penalize corruption in all its forms, as well as the laundering of proceeds of corruption, to prevent the acquisition, transfer and laundering of proceeds of corruption and to work for the prompt recovery of such assets in accordance with the principles of the Convention, including chapter V;

11. *Calls upon* States parties to the Convention to give particular and timely consideration to the execution of international mutual legal assistance requests that need urgent action, including those related to the States concerned in the Middle East and North Africa, as well as other requesting States, and to ensure that the competent authorities of requested States have adequate resources to execute requests, taking into account the particular importance of the recovery of these assets for sustainable development and stability;

12. *Calls upon* States parties to the Convention that have yet to designate a central authority for international cooperation in accordance with the Convention to do so, and to appoint focal points for the purposes of international cooperation and mutual legal assistance in asset recovery, and, where appropriate, encourages States parties to make full use of the network of focal points of the Open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group on Asset Recovery to facilitate cooperation and the implementation of the Convention;

13. *Encourages* States parties to the Convention to use and promote informal channels of communication, in particular prior to making formal requests for mutual legal assistance, by, inter alia, designating officials or institutions, as appropriate, with technical expertise in international cooperation in asset recovery to assist their counterparts in effectively meeting requirements for formal mutual legal assistance;

[4] CAC/COSP/IRG/2010/7, annex I.

14. *Calls upon* States parties to the Convention to remove barriers to asset recovery, including by simplifying their legal procedures and preventing abuse of those procedures;

15. *Encourages* States parties to the Convention to give full effect to the resolutions of the Conference of the States Parties to the Convention;

16. *Calls upon* States parties to the Convention to afford one another the widest possible cooperation and assistance in the identification and recovery of stolen assets and proceeds of corruption and to give particular and timely consideration to the execution of requests for international mutual legal assistance, in accordance with the Convention, and to afford one another the widest possible cooperation and assistance in the extradition of individuals accused of the predicate offences, in accordance with their obligations under the Convention;

17. *Urges* States parties to the Convention to ensure that procedures for international cooperation allow for the seizure and/or restraint of assets for a time period sufficient to preserve those assets in full pending confiscation proceedings in another State, to ensure that there are adequate mechanisms in place to manage and preserve the value and condition of assets pending the conclusion of confiscation proceedings in another State and to allow or expand cooperation in the enforcement of foreign judgements and restraint orders and confiscation judgements, including through awareness-raising for judicial authorities;

18. *Also urges* States parties to the Convention to take a proactive approach to international cooperation in asset recovery by making full use of the mechanisms provided for in chapter V of the Convention, including initiating requests for assistance, making spontaneous disclosures of information on proceeds of offences to other States parties and considering making requests for notifications, in accordance with article 52, paragraph 2 (b) of the Convention, and, where appropriate, implementing measures to permit the recognition of non-conviction-based forfeiture judgements;

19. *Encourages* Member States, where appropriate and consistent with their national legal systems, to consider assisting each other in investigations of and proceedings in civil and administrative matters relating to corruption;

20. *Also encourages* Member States to fight against all forms of corruption by increasing transparency, integrity, accountability and efficiency in the public and private sectors, and recognizes in this regard the need to prevent impunity by prosecuting corrupt officials and those who corrupt them and to cooperate in their extradition, in accordance with the obligations under the Convention;

21. *Stresses* the need for transparency in financial institutions, invites Member States to work on the identification and tracing of financial flows linked to corruption, the freezing or seizing of assets derived from corruption and the return of such assets, in accordance with the Convention, and encourages the promotion of human and institutional capacity-building in that regard;

22. *Calls upon* States parties to the Convention to give timely consideration to mutual legal assistance requests relating to the identification, freezing, tracing and/or recovery of proceeds of corruption and to respond effectively to requests for exchange of information related to proceeds of crime, property, equipment or other instruments referred to in article 31 of the Convention situated in the territory of the

requested State party, in accordance with the provisions of the Convention, including article 40;

23. *Calls upon* States to develop and implement or maintain effective, coordinated anti-corruption policies that promote the participation of society and reflect the principles of the rule of law, proper management of public affairs and public property, integrity, transparency and accountability;

24. *Welcomes* the efforts of Member States that have enacted laws and taken other positive measures in the fight against corruption in all its forms, and in this regard encourages Member States that have not yet done so to enact such laws and to implement effective measures at the national level, in accordance with the Convention;

25. *Reaffirms* the need for Member States to take measures to prevent the transfer abroad and laundering of assets derived from corruption, including to prevent the financial institutions in both countries of origin and countries of destination from being used to transfer or receive illicit funds, as well as to assist in their recovery and to return such assets to the requesting State, in accordance with the Convention;

26. *Calls upon* Member States to continue to work with all stakeholders in international and domestic financial markets to deny safe haven to assets acquired illicitly by individuals engaged in corruption, to deny entry and safe haven to corrupt officials and those who corrupt them and to enhance international collaboration in the investigation and prosecution of corruption offences, as well as in the recovery of proceeds of corruption;

27. *Urges* all Member States to abide by the principles of proper management of public affairs and public property, fairness, responsibility and equality before the law and the need to safeguard integrity and to foster a culture of transparency, accountability and rejection of corruption, in accordance with the Convention;

28. *Calls for* further international cooperation, inter alia, through the United Nations system, in support of national, subregional and regional efforts to prevent and combat corrupt practices and the transfer and laundering of proceeds of corruption, in accordance with the principles of the Convention, and in this regard encourages close and enhanced coordination, cooperation and synergies between anti-corruption agencies, law enforcement agencies and financial intelligence units;

29. *Stresses* the need for further cooperation and coordination among the different international, regional and subregional organizations and initiatives mandated to prevent and combat corruption;

30. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to provide the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime with the resources necessary to enable it to promote, in an effective manner, the implementation of the Convention and to discharge its functions as the secretariat of the Conference of the States Parties to the Convention, and also requests the Secretary-General to ensure that the Mechanism for the Review of Implementation of the Convention is adequately funded, consistent with the resolution adopted by the Conference of the States Parties at its fourth session;[5]

31. *Reiterates its call upon* the private sector, at both the international and the national levels, including small and large companies and transnational corporations,

[5] CAC/COSP/2011/14, sect. I.A, resolution 4/1

to remain fully engaged in the fight against corruption, notes in this context the role that the Global Compact can play in fighting corruption and promoting transparency, and emphasizes the need for all relevant stakeholders, including within the United Nations system, as appropriate, to continue to promote corporate responsibility and accountability;

32. *Recognizes* the important role of business and public-private partnerships in promoting measures to fight corruption, especially measures that support the promotion of ethical business practices in interactions between government, business and other stakeholders;

33. *Acknowledges* that non-tolerance of corruption will be achieved by working in partnership with businesses and civil society, and encourages Member States to implement and raise awareness regarding effective anti-corruption education programmes;

34. *Urges* the international community to provide, inter alia, technical assistance to support national efforts to strengthen human and institutional capacity aimed at preventing and combating corrupt practices and the transfer of proceeds of corruption and to facilitate asset recovery and the return of such proceeds in accordance with the Convention, and to support national efforts in formulating strategies for mainstreaming and promoting anti-corruption efforts, transparency and integrity in both the public and the private sectors;

35. *Urges* States parties and signatories to the Convention to strengthen the capacity of legislators, law enforcement officials, judges and prosecutors to deal with matters relating to asset recovery, including in the areas of mutual legal assistance, confiscation, criminal confiscation and, where appropriate, non-conviction-based forfeiture, in accordance with national law and the Convention, and civil proceedings, and to give the highest consideration to providing technical assistance in those fields, upon request;

36. *Encourages* Member States to exchange and share with each other, including through regional and international organizations, as appropriate, information on lessons learned and good practices, as well as information related to technical assistance activities and initiatives in order to strengthen international efforts to prevent and combat corruption;

37. *Encourages* States parties to the Convention to provide regular updates and to expand, where appropriate, the information contained in the relevant databases of knowledge on assets recovery, such as Tools and Resources for Anti-Corruption Knowledge and Asset Recovery Watch, taking into consideration constraints on information-sharing based on confidentiality requirements;

38. *Encourages* the collection and systematization of good practices and tools in the cooperation for asset recovery, including the use and expansion of secure information-sharing tools with a view to enhancing early and spontaneous information exchange insofar as possible and in accordance with the Convention;

39. *Also encourages* the collection of substantial information duly researched and regularly published by recognized organizations and representatives of civil society;

40. *Calls upon* requesting and requested States with practical experience in asset recovery to develop, as appropriate, in cooperation with interested States and

providers of technical assistance, non-binding practical guidelines, such as a step-by-step guide, for efficient asset recovery, with a view to enhancing effective approaches to asset recovery based on the lessons learned from past cases, being mindful to seek to add value by building upon existing work in this area;

41. *Encourages* States parties to the Convention to share approaches and practical experience for the return of assets, consistent with article 57 of the Convention, for further dissemination through the Secretariat;

42. *Encourages* requesting States to ensure that adequate national investigative procedures have been initiated and substantiated for the purpose of presenting mutual legal assistance requests, and in this context encourages requested States to provide, when appropriate, information on legal frameworks and procedures to the requesting State;

43. *Encourages* States parties to the Convention to compile and provide information in accordance with article 52 of the Convention and to undertake other actions that help to establish the linkage between assets and offences under the Convention;

44. *Notes with appreciation* the Stolen Asset Recovery Initiative of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the World Bank and its cooperation with relevant partners, including the International Centre for Asset Recovery, and encourages coordination among existing initiatives;

45. *Notes* the work of other initiatives in the field of asset recovery, such as the Arab Forum on Asset Recovery, and welcomes their efforts to enhance cooperation between requesting and requested States;

46. *Welcomes* the work of the International Anti-Corruption Academy, a centre of excellence for education, training and academic research in the anti-corruption field, including in the area of asset recovery, and looks forward to its continued efforts in this regard to promote the goals and implementation of the Convention;

47. *Also welcomes* the holding of the fifth session of the Conference of States Parties to the Convention, in Panama City from 25 to 29 November 2013 and its outcomes and contributions to promoting the implementation of the Convention, and reiterates its appreciation for the offer by the Government of the Russian Federation to host the sixth session of the Conference of the States Parties in 2015;

48. *Requests* the Secretary-General, within existing reporting obligations, to include in his report to the General Assembly at its seventieth session under the item on crime prevention and criminal justice an analytical section entitled "Preventing and combating corrupt practices and the transfer of proceeds of corruption, facilitating asset recovery and returning such assets to legitimate owners, in particular to countries of origin, in accordance with the United Nations Convention against Corruption", and also requests the Secretary-General to transmit to the Assembly the report of the Conference of the States Parties to the Convention on its sixth session.

United Nations A/C.3/69/L.19

General Assembly

Distr.: Limited
14 October 2014

Original: English

Sixty-ninth session
Third Committee
Agenda item 27 (a)
Advancement of women

France and Netherlands: draft resolution

Intensification of efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 61/143 of 19 December 2006, 62/133 of 18 December 2007, 63/155 of 18 December 2008, 64/137 of 18 December 2009, 65/187 of 21 December 2010 and 67/144 of 20 December 2012, and all its previous resolutions on the elimination of violence against women,

Reaffirming the obligation of all States to promote and protect all human rights and fundamental freedoms, and reaffirming also that discrimination on the basis of sex is contrary to the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,[1] the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,[2] the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,[2] the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,[3] the Convention on the Rights of the Child[4] and the Optional Protocols thereto, the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities[5] and other international human rights instruments and that its elimination is a cross-cutting issue and an integral part of efforts towards the elimination of all forms of violence against women,

Recalling the rules of international humanitarian law, including the Geneva Conventions of 1949[6] and the Additional Protocols thereto of 1977,[7]

Reaffirming the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action,[8] the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women,[9] the Beijing Declaration and Platform

[1] Resolution 217 A (III).
[2] See resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.
[3] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1249, No. 20378.
[4] Ibid., vol. 1577, No. 27531.
[5] Ibid., vol. 2515, No. 44910.
[6] Ibid., vol. 75, Nos. 970-973.
[7] Ibid., vol. 1125, Nos. 17512 and 17513.
[8] A/CONF.157/24 (Part I), chap. III.
[9] Resolution 48/104.

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for Action,[10] the outcome documents of its review conferences and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century",[11]

Reaffirming also the declarations adopted at the forty-ninth[12] and fifty-fourth[13] sessions of the Commission on the Status of Women and the adoption of the agreed conclusions on the priority theme "Elimination and prevention of all forms of violence against women and girls" at the fifty-seventh session,[14] and welcoming the importance given to the elimination of violence against women and girls in the agreed conclusions of the fifty-eighth session,

Reaffirming further the international commitments in the field of social development regarding gender equality and the advancement of women made at the World Conference on Human Rights, the International Conference on Population and Development and the key actions for its further implementation, the World Summit for Social Development and the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance, as well as those made in the United Nations Millennium Declaration,[15] at the 2005 World Summit[16] and at the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals,[17] and noting the attention paid to the elimination of all forms of violence against indigenous women in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, adopted by the Assembly in its resolution 61/295 of 13 September 2007,

Welcoming the contributions made by the United Nations on the post-2015 development agenda, such as the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development,[18] taking note in particular of the report of the High-level Panel of Eminent Persons on the Post-2015 Development Agenda[19] and the report of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals,[20] and other relevant contributions, which consider the elimination of all forms of violence against women and girls as a key factor for achieving their full and effective participation in sustainable development,

Welcoming also the statement by the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women on the post-2015 development agenda and the

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[10] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

[11] Resolution S-23/2, annex, and resolution S-23/3, annex.

[12] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2005, Supplement No. 7* and corrigendum (E/2005/27 and Corr.1), chap. I, sect. A; see also Economic and Social Council decision 2005/232.

[13] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2010, Supplement No. 7* and corrigendum (E/2010/27 and Corr.1), chap. I, sect. A; see also Economic and Social Council decision 2010/232.

[14] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2013, Supplement No. 7* (E/2013/27), chap. I, sect. A.

[15] Resolution 55/2.

[16] See resolution 60/1.

[17] See resolution 65/1.

[18] Resolution 66/288, annex.

[19] A/67/890, annex.

[20] A/68/970.

elimination of discrimination against women, including its call upon the international community to ensure a strong accountability framework,[21]

Recalling the inclusion of gender-related crimes and crimes of sexual violence in the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court,[22] as well as the recognition by the ad hoc international criminal tribunals that rape and other forms of sexual violence can constitute a war crime, a crime against humanity or a constitutive act with respect to genocide or torture, and welcoming the undertakings of the Chief Prosecutor of the Court to strengthen efforts to combat impunity for sexual and gender-based violence,

Welcoming Security Council resolutions 1325 (2000) of 31 October 2000, 1820 (2008) of 19 June 2008, 1888 (2009) of 30 September 2009, 1889 (2009) of 5 October 2009, 1960 (2010) of 16 December 2010, 2106 (2013) of 24 June 2013 and 2122 (2013) of 18 October 2013 on women and peace and security and all relevant Council resolutions on children and armed conflict, including resolutions 1882 (2009) of 4 August 2009, 1998 (2011) of 12 July 2011, 2068 (2012) of 19 September 2012 and 2143 (2014) of 7 March 2014,

Recalling Human Rights Council resolutions 17/11 of 17 June 2011, 20/12 of 5 July 2012, 23/25 of 14 June 2013 and 26/15 of 26 June 2014 on accelerating efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women and 26/5 of 26 June 2014 on the elimination of discrimination against women,

Recalling also the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights: Implementing the United Nations "Protect, Respect and Remedy" Framework,[23] including the responsibility of business enterprises to respect human rights, bearing in mind the different risks that may be faced by women and men,

Recognizing the importance of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) and its role in leading, coordinating and promoting the accountability of the United Nations system in its work on gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls,

Expressing its appreciation for the efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls and the high number of activities undertaken by the United Nations bodies, entities, funds and programmes and the specialized agencies, including by the Working Group on the issue of discrimination against women in law and in practice, the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences, the Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially women and children, the Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict, the Special Rapporteur on the promotion of truth, justice, reparation and guarantees of non-recurrence and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children,

Deeply concerned about the pervasiveness of violence against women and girls in all its different forms and manifestations worldwide, and reiterating the need to intensify efforts to prevent all forms of violence against women and girls throughout the world and to re-emphasize that violence against women and girls is unacceptable,

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[21] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 38* (A/69/38), annex I.

[22] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2187, No. 38544.

[23] A/HRC/17/31, annex.

Emphasizing that States should continue to adopt and implement legislation, policies and other measures in accordance with their obligations under international law, in particular their international human rights obligations and commitments, while exercising, including in peacebuilding missions or operations, due diligence which addresses the issue of violence against women in a comprehensive manner by not only criminalizing violence against women and girls and providing for punishment of the perpetrators, but also including protection and preventive measures and provisions for redress and reparations for victims and survivors of violence against women and girls, with provisions for adequate funding for their implementation,

Reaffirming the importance of effective accountability with regard to violence against women and girls, including sexual violence, abuse and exploitation, and of undertaking adequate measures to combat such violence,

Recognizing that violence against women and girls is rooted in historical and structural inequality in power relations between men and women and that all forms of violence against women seriously violate and impair or nullify the enjoyment by women and girls of all human rights and fundamental freedoms and constitute a major impediment to women's full and active contribution to society,

Recognizing also that women's poverty and lack of empowerment, as well as their marginalization resulting from their exclusion from social policies and from the benefits of education and sustainable development, can place them at increased risk of violence, and that violence against women impedes the social, economic and therefore sustainable development of communities and States, as well as the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals,

Acknowledging the need to address violence against women and girls holistically, including through the recognition of linkages between violence against women and girls and other issues, such as HIV/AIDS, poverty eradication, food security, peace and security, humanitarian assistance, education, access to justice, health and crime prevention,

Acknowledging also that trafficking in persons is one of the forms of transnational organized crime which exposes women to violence and that concerted efforts are needed to combat it, and in this regard stressing that full and effective implementation of the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime,[24] as well as the full and effective implementation of the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons,[25] will contribute to the elimination of all forms of violence against women and girls,

Expressing its appreciation for the efforts and the high number of activities undertaken by States to eliminate all forms of violence against women that have resulted in the strengthening of legislation and the criminal justice system, such as adopting national action plans, strategies and national coordination mechanisms, implementing preventive and protective measures, including awareness-raising and capacity-building, such as through training for criminal justice professionals and education, providing support and services for women facing or subjected to violence and improving data collection and analysis,

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[24] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2237, No. 39574.

[25] Resolution 64/293.

Recognizing that domestic violence and intimate partner violence remain widespread and affect women of all social strata across the world and the need to eliminate such violence,

Recognizing also the important role of the family and the community, in particular men and boys, as well as civil society, in particular women human rights defenders and women's and youth organizations, in the efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls,

1. *Stresses* that "violence against women" means any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women and girls, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life, and notes the economic and social consequences of such violence;

2. *Recognizes* that gender-based violence is a form of discrimination that seriously inhibits women's ability to enjoy rights and freedoms on a basis of equality with men;

3. *Also recognizes* that violence against women and girls persists in every country in the world as a pervasive violation of the enjoyment of human rights and a major impediment to achieving gender equality, development, peace, security and the internationally agreed development goals, in particular the Millennium Development Goals;

4. *Further recognizes* that all human rights are universal, indivisible and interdependent and interrelated and that the international community must treat human rights globally in a fair and equal manner, on the same footing and with the same emphasis, and stresses that, while the significance of national and regional particularities and various historical, cultural and religious backgrounds must be borne in mind, it is the duty of States regardless of their political, economic and cultural systems to promote and protect all human rights and fundamental freedoms;

5. *Stresses* that it is important that States strongly condemn all forms of violence against women and refrain from invoking any custom, tradition or religious consideration to avoid their obligations with respect to its elimination as set out in the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women;[9]

6. *Strongly condemns* all acts of violence against women and girls, whether those acts are perpetrated by the State, by private persons or by non-State actors, including business enterprises, and calls for the elimination of all forms of gender-based violence in the family, within the general community and where perpetrated or condoned by the State;

7. *Stresses* that States have the obligation, at all levels, to promote and protect all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, including women and girls, and must exercise due diligence to prevent, investigate, prosecute, provide for redress and reparations for and hold to account the perpetrators of violence against women and girls and eliminate impunity and should ensure the protection and the empowerment of women and girls, including adequate enforcement by police and the judiciary of civil remedies, orders of protection and criminal sanctions, and the provision of shelters, psychosocial services, counselling, health and other types of support services, in order to avoid revictimization, and that to do so contributes to the enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms by women subjected to violence;

8. *Welcomes* the report of the Secretary-General on the intensification of efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women,[26] as well as the report of the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences;[27]

9. *Also welcomes* the efforts and contributions at the local, national, regional and international levels to eliminate all forms of violence against women, including by the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences, and encourages States to consider ratifying or acceding to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and its Optional Protocol;

10. *Expresses its appreciation* for the progress achieved in the Secretary-General's 2008-2015 campaign "UNiTE to End Violence against Women" and the regional components of the campaign, and stresses the need to accelerate the implementation of concrete follow-up activities by the United Nations system to end all forms of violence against women;

11. *Welcomes* the contributions already made by States, the private sector and other donors to the United Nations Trust Fund in Support of Actions to End Violence against Women, while stressing the importance of further funding for the Trust Fund in order to provide support for national and local organizations working to prevent and end violence against women and girls;

12. *Reaffirms* that the persistence of armed conflicts in various parts of the world is a major impediment to the elimination of all forms of violence against women, and, bearing in mind that armed and other types of conflicts and terrorism and hostage-taking still persist in many parts of the world and that aggression, foreign occupation and ethnic and other types of conflicts are an ongoing reality, affecting women and men in nearly every region, calls upon all States and the international community to place particular focus on the plight, and give priority attention and increased assistance to relieving the suffering, of women and girls living in such situations and to ensure that, where violence is committed against them, all perpetrators of such violence are duly investigated and, as appropriate, prosecuted and punished in order to end impunity, including within peacekeeping missions and operations, while stressing the need to respect international humanitarian law and human rights law, and calls upon all States to apply the definition of sexual and gender-based violence, as set out in the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court;[22]

13. *Stresses* the need for the exclusion of killing and maiming of women and girls, as prohibited under international law, and crimes of sexual violence from amnesty provisions in the context of conflict resolution processes and to address such acts committed during all stages of the armed conflict and post-conflict resolution process, including through transitional justice, while ensuring the full and effective participation of women in such processes;

14. *Also stresses* that in armed conflict and post-conflict situations the prevention of and response to all forms of violence against women and girls, including sexual and gender-based violence, must be prioritized and effectively addressed, including, as appropriate, through the investigation, prosecution and punishment of perpetrators to end impunity, the removal of barriers to women's access to justice, the

[26] A/69/222.

[27] See A/69/368.

establishment of complaint and reporting mechanisms, the provision of support to victims, affordable and accessible health-care services, including sexual and reproductive health, and reintegration measures, and that steps must be taken to increase women's participation in conflict resolution and peacebuilding missions and processes and post-conflict decision-making;

15. *Further stresses* that, despite important steps taken by many countries around the world, States should continue to focus on the implementation of laws and policies for ending violence against women and girls, including the prevention of violence against women and girls, as well as their protection and the provision of services, and should therefore monitor and rigorously evaluate the implementation of available programmes, policies and laws and improve, where possible, their impact, accessibility and effectiveness;

16. *Stresses* that States should take measures to ensure that all officials responsible for implementing policies and programmes aimed at preventing violence against women and girls, protecting and assisting the victims and investigating and punishing acts of violence receive ongoing and adequate training and access to information to sensitize them to the different and specific needs of women and girls, in particular those who have been subjected to violence, so that women and girls are not revictimized when seeking justice and redress, including in peacekeeping missions and processes;

17. *Also stresses* that States should take all possible measures to empower and protect women against all forms of violence, to inform them of their human rights, including by disseminating information on the assistance available to women and families who have experienced violence and ensuring that timely and appropriate information is available to all women who have been subjected to violence, including at all levels of the justice system, and to inform everyone of women's rights and of the existing penalties for violating those rights;

18. *Expresses grave concern* that impunity for violations and abuses against women human rights defenders persists owing to factors including a lack of reporting, documentation, investigation and access to justice, social barriers and constraints with regard to addressing gender-based violence, including sexual violence and the stigmatization that may result from such violations and abuses, and a lack of recognition of the legitimate role of women human rights defenders, all of which entrench or institutionalize gender discrimination;

19. *Calls upon* States, with the support of United Nations entities, to fully engage men and boys, as well as families and communities, as partners and agents of change in preventing and condemning violence against women and girls, as well as in achieving gender equality, and to develop appropriate policies to promote the responsibility and role of men and boys in eliminating all forms of violence against women and girls;

20. *Urges* States to continue to develop their national strategies, translating them into concrete programmes and actions and a more systematic, comprehensive, multisectoral and sustained approach, aimed at eliminating all forms of violence against women, including by achieving gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls and keeping in view the State's responsibility to act with due diligence to prevent, protect against and investigate all acts of violence against

women, prosecute and punish perpetrators and provide for redress for victims of such violence, by, for example:

(a) Establishing, in partnership with all relevant stakeholders and at all relevant levels, a comprehensive integrated national plan dedicated to combating violence against women and girls in all its aspects, which includes data collection and analysis, and prevention and protection measures, as well as national information campaigns, using resources to eliminate in the media gender stereotypes that lead to violence against women and girls;

(b) Reviewing and, where appropriate, revising, amending or abolishing all laws, regulations, policies, practices and customs that discriminate against women or have a discriminatory impact on women, and ensuring that the provisions of multiple legal systems and alternative dispute resolution, where they exist, comply with international human rights obligations, commitments and principles, including the principle of non-discrimination;

(c) Evaluating and assessing the impact of current legislation, rules and procedures regarding violence against women which restrict access to justice and induce low reporting and a high attrition rate from reporting to conviction, reinforcing, where necessary, criminal law and procedure relating to all forms of violence against women, with a focus on prevention, the protection of women and easy access to redress for victims;

(d) Adopting, as appropriate, reviewing and ensuring the accelerated and effective implementation of laws and comprehensive measures that criminalize violence against women and girls and that provide for multidisciplinary and gender-sensitive preventive and protective measures, such as emergency orders and protection orders, the investigation, submission for prosecution and appropriate punishment of perpetrators to end impunity, and support services that empower victims and survivors, as well as access to appropriate civil remedies and redress;

(e) Addressing and eliminating, as a matter of priority, domestic violence through adopting, strengthening and implementing legislation that prohibits such violence, prescribes punitive measures and establishes adequate legal protection against such violence;

(f) Promoting awareness among all stakeholders of the need to combat violence against women, occurring in public or private life, and promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women, inter alia, through regular and repeated use and funding of awareness-raising campaigns nationwide and other ways to promote the transformation of discriminatory social norms and gender stereotypes, as part of an integrated prevention strategy;

(g) Encouraging the media to examine the impact of gender role stereotypes, including those perpetuated by commercial advertisements which foster gender-based violence and inequalities;

(h) Ensuring that there is sufficient knowledge, including expertise in effective legal approaches to eliminating violence against women and girls, awareness and coordination in the legal system and, to that end, where appropriate, appointing a focal point in the legal system for cases of violence against women and girls;

(i) Ensuring also the systematic collection, analysis and dissemination of data disaggregated by sex and age to monitor all forms of violence against women

and girls, including on the effectiveness of preventive and protective measures, with the involvement of national statistical offices and, where appropriate, in partnership with other actors, in order to review and implement effectively laws, policies, strategies and preventive and protective measures, while ensuring and maintaining the privacy and confidentiality of the victims;

(j) Establishing appropriate national mechanisms for monitoring and evaluating the implementation of national measures, including national action plans, taken to eliminate violence against women, including through the use of national indicators;

(k) Providing adequate financial support and human resources for the implementation of national strategies and action plans to promote the empowerment of women and girls and gender equality, to end violence against women and girls and to prevent and provide for the redress of all forms of violence against women and girls and other relevant activities;

(l) Adopting all appropriate measures, especially in the field of education, from the entry levels of the education system, to modify the social and cultural patterns of conduct of men and women of all ages, in order to promote the development of respectful relations and to eliminate prejudices, harmful customary practices and all other practices based on the idea of the inferiority or superiority of either of the sexes and on stereotyped roles for men and women, and by raising awareness of the unacceptability of violence against women and girls at all levels, including through schools, educational programmes, teachers, parents, religious leaders, youth organizations and teaching materials sensitized on gender equality and human rights;

(m) Improving the safety and security of girls in all aspects of public and private life, including at and on the way to and from school, including by establishing a safe and violence-free environment by improving infrastructure such as transportation, providing separate and adequate sanitation facilities, improved lighting, playgrounds and safe environments and adopting national policies to prohibit, prevent and address violence against children, especially girls, including sexual harassment and bullying and other forms of violence, through measures such as conducting violence prevention activities in schools and communities and establishing and enforcing penalties for violence against girls;

(n) Developing gender-sensitive educational programmes at all levels and taking concrete measures to ensure that educational materials portray women and men, youth, girls and boys in positive and non-stereotypical roles;

(o) Promoting preventive measures at an early stage with families and children exposed to or at risk of violence, such as parenting education programmes, to reduce the risk of possible perpetration of violence or revictimization in later childhood and adulthood;

(p) Ensuring that the appropriate legislative, administrative, social and educational measures are in place to protect children from all forms of physical or mental violence, injury or abuse, neglect or negligent treatment, maltreatment or exploitation, including sexual abuse;

(q) Ensuring also that the appropriate legislative, administrative, social and educational measures are in place to eliminate the occurrence of child and forced

marriages and female genital mutilation and to provide information regarding the harm associated with these practices;

(r) Empowering women, in particular women living in poverty, by, inter alia, strengthening their economic autonomy and by ensuring their full participation in society and in decision-making processes, through, inter alia, social and economic policies that guarantee them full and equal access to all levels of quality education and training and to affordable and adequate public and social services, as well as equal access to financial resources and employment, and full and equal rights to own and have access to land and other property, and taking further appropriate measures to address the increasing rate of homelessness of and inadequate housing for women in order to reduce their vulnerability to violence;

(s) Treating all forms of violence against women and girls as a criminal offence, punishable by law, contributing, inter alia, to the prevention and non-recurrence of such crimes, and ensuring penalties commensurate with the severity of the crimes and sanctions in national legislation to punish, and redress, as appropriate, the wrongs caused to women and girls who are subjected to violence;

(t) Taking effective measures to prevent consent from becoming an impediment to bringing perpetrators of violence against women and girls to justice, while ensuring that criminal justice processes are gender-sensitive and that appropriate safeguards and measures to protect women facing or subjected to violence, such as restraining and expulsion orders against the perpetrators, testimonial aids and adequate and comprehensive measures for the rehabilitation and reintegration of victims of violence into society, are in place;

(u) Encouraging the removal of all barriers to women's access to justice and ensuring that they all have access to effective legal assistance so that they can make informed decisions regarding, inter alia, legal proceedings and issues relating to family law, and also ensuring that they have access to just and effective remedies for the harm that they have suffered, including through the adoption of national legislation where necessary;

(v) Ensuring effective cooperation and coordination among all stakeholders, including all relevant public officials and civil society, in the prevention, investigation, prosecution and punishment of all forms of violence against women and girls;

(w) Ensuring also the promotion and protection of the human rights of all women and their sexual and reproductive health and rights, including through the development and enforcement of policies and legal frameworks and the strengthening of health systems that make universally accessible and available quality comprehensive sexual and reproductive health-care services, commodities, information and education, including safe and effective methods of modern contraception, emergency contraception, prevention programmes for adolescent pregnancy, maternal health care such as skilled birth attendance and emergency obstetric care, which will reduce obstetric fistula and other complications of pregnancy and delivery, safe abortion where such services are permitted by national law, and prevention and treatment of reproductive tract infections, sexually transmitted infections, HIV and reproductive cancers, recognizing that human rights include the right to have control over and decide freely and responsibly on matters

related to their sexuality, including sexual and reproductive health, free from coercion, discrimination and violence;

(x) Establishing comprehensive, coordinated, interdisciplinary, accessible and sustained multisectoral services, programmes and responses at all levels to provide immediate protection and support, available and accessible also in rural areas, through which shelter, legal, health, psychological, counselling and other services are available to all women facing or subjected to violence, as well as their children, and, where integrated centres are not feasible, promoting collaboration and coordination among agencies;

(y) Encouraging the establishment or support of national and local helplines that provide information, counselling, support and referral services to women facing or subjected to violence;

(z) Ensuring that the prison system and probation services provide appropriate rehabilitation programmes for perpetrators, as a preventive tool against recidivism as part of an integrated response to violence against women, and place the safety of women and girls as the highest priority;

(aa) Ending impunity by ensuring accountability and punishing perpetrators of sexual and gender-based crimes against women and girls under national and international law and stressing the need for the alleged perpetrators of those crimes to be held accountable under national justice or, where applicable, international justice;

21. *Calls upon* the international community, including the United Nations system and, as appropriate, regional and subregional organizations, to support national efforts to promote the empowerment of women and girls and gender equality in order to enhance national efforts to eliminate violence against women and girls, including, upon request, in the development and implementation of national action plans on the elimination of violence against women and girls, through, inter alia, official development assistance and other appropriate assistance, such as facilitating the sharing of guidelines, methodologies and best practices, taking into account national priorities;

22. *Stresses* the contribution of the ad hoc international criminal tribunals and the International Criminal Court to ending impunity, by ensuring accountability and punishing perpetrators of violence against women, and urges States to consider ratifying or acceding as a matter of priority to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court,[22] which entered into force on 1 July 2002;

23. *Calls upon* the inter-agency Programme Advisory Committee of the United Nations Trust Fund in Support of Actions to Eliminate Violence against Women, in consultation with the Inter-Agency Network on Women and Gender Equality, to continue to provide guidance on the implementation of the 2010-2015 strategy for the Trust Fund and to further enhance its effectiveness as a system-wide funding mechanism for preventing and redressing all forms of violence against women and girls and to give due consideration, inter alia, to the findings and recommendations of the external evaluation of the Trust Fund;

24. *Stresses* that, within the United Nations system, adequate resources should be assigned to the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) and other bodies, specialized agencies, funds and programmes responsible for the promotion of gender equality and women's rights and

to efforts throughout the United Nations system to prevent and eliminate violence against women and girls, and calls upon the United Nations system to make the necessary support and resources available;

25. *Also stresses* the importance of the Secretary-General's database on violence against women, expresses its appreciation to all the States that have provided the database with information regarding, inter alia, their national policies and legal frameworks aimed at eliminating violence against women and supporting victims of such violence, strongly encourages all States to regularly provide updated information for the database, and calls upon all relevant entities of the United Nations system to continue to support States, at their request, in the compilation and regular updating of pertinent information and to raise awareness of the database among all relevant stakeholders, including civil society;

26. *Acknowledges* the work of the Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat, as requested by the Statistical Commission, on the development of guidelines to support the production by Member States of statistics on violence against women and girls;

27. *Calls upon* all United Nations bodies, entities, funds and programmes and the specialized agencies and invites the Bretton Woods institutions to intensify their efforts at all levels to eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls and to better coordinate their work with a view to increasing effective support for national efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women;

28. *Requests* the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences to present an annual report to the General Assembly at its seventieth and seventy-first sessions;

29. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventieth session a report containing:

(a) Information provided by the United Nations bodies, funds and programmes and the specialized agencies on their follow-up activities to implement resolution 67/144 and the present resolution, including on their assistance to States in their efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women;

(b) Information provided by States on their follow-up activities to implement the present resolution;

30. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to present an oral report to the Commission on the Status of Women at its fifty-ninth and sixtieth sessions including information provided by the United Nations bodies, funds and programmes and the specialized agencies on recent follow-up activities to implement resolutions 65/187 and 67/144 and the present resolution, including on the progress made in enhancing the effectiveness of the United Nations Trust Fund in Support of Actions to Eliminate Violence against Women as a system-wide United Nations mechanism and on the progress of the Secretary-General's campaign to end violence against women, and urges United Nations bodies, entities, funds and programmes and the specialized agencies to contribute promptly to that report;

31. *Decides* to continue the consideration of the question at its seventy-first session under the item entitled "Advancement of women".

United Nations A/C.3/69/L.20

General Assembly

Distr.: Limited
15 October 2014

Original: English

Sixty-ninth session
Third Committee
Agenda item 27 (a)
Advancement of women

Malawi:* draft resolution

Intensification of efforts to end obstetric fistula

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 62/138 of 18 December 2007, 63/158 of 18 December 2008, 65/188 of 21 December 2010 and 67/147 of 20 December 2012 on supporting efforts to end obstetric fistula,

Reaffirming the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action,[1] the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century",[2] the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development[3] and the Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development[4] and their reviews, and the international commitments in the field of social development and to gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls made at the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance[5] and the 2005 World Summit,[6] as well as those made in the outcome document of the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals, entitled "Keeping the promise: united to achieve the Millennium Development Goals",[7]

* On behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of African States.

[1] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

[2] Resolution S-23/2, annex, and resolution S-23/3, annex.

[3] *Report of the International Conference on Population and Development, Cairo, 5-13 September 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.95.XIII.18), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

[4] *Report of the World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen, 6-12 March 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.8), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

[5] See A/CONF.189/12 and Corr.1, chap. I.

[6] Resolution 60/1.

[7] Resolution 65/1.

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Reaffirming also the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,[8] the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women[9] and the Convention on the Rights of the Child,[10] and urging States that have not done so to consider, as a matter of priority, signing, ratifying or acceding to those Conventions and the Optional Protocols thereto,[11]

Welcoming the report of the Secretary-General,[12] and the conclusions and recommendations contained therein,

Stressing the interlinkages between poverty, malnutrition, lack of or inadequate or inaccessible health-care services, early childbearing, child marriage, violence against young women and girls and gender discrimination as root causes of obstetric fistula, and that poverty remains the main social risk factor,

Recognizing that the difficult socioeconomic conditions that exist in many developing countries, in particular the least developed countries, have resulted in the acceleration of the feminization of poverty,

Recognizing also that early childbearing increases the risk of complications during pregnancy and delivery and entails a much higher risk of maternal mortality and morbidity, and deeply concerned that early childbearing and limited access to the highest attainable standard of health, including sexual and reproductive health, specifically timely access to high-quality emergency obstetric care, cause high levels of obstetric fistula and other maternal morbidities, as well as maternal mortality,

Noting that a human rights-based approach to eliminating obstetric fistula is underpinned by the principles of, inter alia, accountability, participation, transparency, empowerment, sustainability, non-discrimination and international cooperation,

Deeply concerned about discrimination against women and girls and the violation of their rights, which often result in less access for girls to education and nutrition, their reduced physical and mental health and the enjoyment by girls of fewer of the rights, opportunities and benefits of childhood and adolescence compared with boys, and in their often being subjected to various forms of cultural, social, sexual and economic exploitation and to violence and harmful practices,

Deeply concerned also about the situation of women living with or recovering from obstetric fistula, who are often neglected and stigmatized,

Welcoming the contribution by Member States, the international community and civil society to the global Campaign to End Fistula, bearing in mind that a people-centred approach to social and economic development is fundamental for protecting and empowering individuals and communities,

Deeply concerned that, as the Campaign to End Fistula has completed its tenth anniversary, while some progress has been made, there remain significant

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[8] Resolution 217 A (III).

[9] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1249, No. 20378.

[10] Ibid., vol. 1577, No. 27531.

[11] Ibid., vol. 2131, No. 20378; ibid., vols. 2171 and 2173, No. 27531; and resolution 66/138, annex.

[12] A/67/258.

challenges that require the intensification of efforts at all levels to end obstetric fistula,

Recognizing the Secretary-General's Global Strategy for Women's and Children's Health, undertaken by a broad coalition of partners, in support of national plans and strategies aimed at significantly reducing the number of maternal, newborn and under-five child deaths and disabilities as a matter of immediate concern by scaling up a priority package of high-impact interventions and integrating efforts in sectors such as health, education, gender equality, water and sanitation, poverty eradication and nutrition,

Welcoming the various national, regional and international initiatives on all the Millennium Development Goals, including those undertaken bilaterally and through South-South cooperation, in support of national plans and strategies in sectors such as health, education, gender equality, energy, water and sanitation, poverty eradication and nutrition as a way to reduce the number of maternal, newborn and under-five child deaths,

Welcoming also ongoing partnerships between stakeholders at all levels to address the multifaceted determinants of maternal, newborn and child health in close coordination with Member States based on their needs and priorities and the commitments to accelerate progress on the health-related Millennium Development Goals, including beyond 2015,

Reaffirming the renewed and reinforced commitments made by Member States for achieving Millennium Development Goal 5, in the remaining days and beyond 2015,

Acknowledging that intensification of efforts is urgently needed to end obstetric fistula, and in this context the importance of including it in the post-2015 development agenda framework,

1. *Recognizes* the interlinkages between poverty, lack of or inadequate access to health-care services, early childbearing and child marriage as root causes of obstetric fistula, that poverty remains the main social risk factor and that the eradication of poverty is critical to meeting the needs and rights of women and girls, and calls upon States, in collaboration with the international community, to take accelerated action to address the situation;

2. *Stresses* the need to address the social issues that contribute to the problem of obstetric fistula, such as poverty, lack of or inadequate education for women and girls, lack of access to health-care services, including sexual and reproductive health-care services, early childbearing, child marriage and the low status of women and girls;

3. *Calls upon* States to provide essential health-care services, equipment and supplies and skills training and income-generating projects to women and girls so that they can break out of the cycle of poverty;

4. *Also calls upon* States to take all measures necessary to ensure the right of women and girls to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health, including sexual and reproductive health, and reproductive rights, in accordance with the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development,[3] and to develop sustainable health systems and social services with a view to ensuring access to such systems and services without discrimination, while

paying special attention to adequate food and nutrition, water and sanitation, family planning information, increasing knowledge and awareness and ensuring equitable access to high-quality appropriate prenatal and delivery care for the prevention of obstetric fistula and the reduction of health inequities, as well as postnatal care for the detection and early management of fistula cases;

5. *Further calls upon* States to ensure the right to education for women and girls, of good quality, on an equal basis with men and boys and to ensure that they complete a full course of primary education, and to renew their efforts to improve and expand girls' and women's education at all levels, including at the secondary and higher levels, and including age-appropriate sex education, as well as vocational education and technical training, in order to, inter alia, achieve gender equality, the empowerment of women and girls and poverty eradication;

6. *Urges* States to enact and strictly enforce laws to ensure that marriage, including in rural and remote areas, is entered into only with the free and full consent of the intending spouses and, in addition, to enact and strictly enforce laws concerning the minimum legal age of consent and the minimum age for marriage, and to raise the minimum age for marriage where necessary;

7. *Calls upon* the international community to provide intensified technical and financial support, in particular to high-burden countries, to accelerate progress towards the achievement of Millennium Development Goal 5 and the elimination of obstetric fistula in the remaining days and beyond 2015;

8. *Urges* multilateral donors, international financial institutions, and regional development banks in the public and private sectors, within their respective mandates, to review and implement policies to support national efforts to ensure that a higher proportion of resources reach young women and girls, in particular in rural and remote areas, as well as to ensure that needed funding is increased, predictable and sustained;

9. *Calls upon* the international community to support the activities of the United Nations Population Fund and other partners in the global Campaign to End Fistula, including the World Health Organization, in establishing and financing regional fistula treatment and training centres and, where necessary, national centres, by identifying and supporting health facilities that have the potential to serve as centres for treatment, training and convalescent care;

10. *Calls upon* States to accelerate progress in order to achieve Millennium Development Goal 5 and its two targets in the remaining days and beyond 2015, by addressing reproductive, maternal, newborn and child health in a comprehensive manner, inter alia, through the provision of family planning, prenatal care, skilled attendance at birth, emergency obstetric and newborn care, postnatal care, and methods of prevention and treatment of sexually transmitted diseases and infections, such as HIV, within strengthened health systems that provide equal access to affordable, equitable and high-quality integrated health-care services and include community-based preventive and clinical care, as also reflected in the outcome document of the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals, entitled "Keeping the promise: united to achieve the Millennium Development Goals",[7] and the Global Strategy for Women's and Children's Health;

11. *Urges* the international community to address the shortage of doctors and the inequitable distribution of midwives, nurses and other health workers trained in lifesaving obstetric care and of space and supplies, which limit the capacity of most fistula centres;

12. *Commends* the commemoration by the international community of 23 May as the first International Day to End Obstetric Fistula, and its decision to continue to use the International Day each year to significantly raise awareness and intensify actions towards ending obstetric fistula;

13. *Calls upon* States and/or the relevant funds and programmes, organs and specialized agencies of the United Nations system, within their respective mandates, and invites the international financial institutions and all relevant actors of civil society, including non-governmental organizations, and the private sector:

(a) To redouble their efforts to meet the internationally agreed goal of improving maternal health by making maternal health-care services and obstetric fistula treatment geographically and financially accessible, including by ensuring universal access to skilled attendance at birth and timely access to high-quality emergency obstetric care and family planning, as well as appropriate prenatal and postnatal care;

(b) To make greater investments in strengthening health systems, ensuring adequately trained and skilled human resources, especially midwives, obstetricians, gynaecologists and doctors, and providing support for the development and maintenance of infrastructure, as well as investments in referral mechanisms, equipment and supply chains, to improve maternal and newborn health-care services and ensure that women and girls have access to the full continuum of care, with functional quality control and monitoring mechanisms in place for all areas of delivery;

(c) To support the training of doctors, nurses and other health workers in lifesaving obstetric care, especially midwives, who are the front-line workers in the fight to prevent obstetric fistula and maternal mortality, and include training on fistula repair, treatment and care as a standard element of the training curricula of health professionals;

(d) To ensure equitable access and coverage through national policies, plans and programmes that make maternal and newborn health-care services, particularly family planning, skilled attendance at birth, emergency obstetric and newborn care and obstetric fistula treatment, financially accessible, including in rural and remote areas and among the poorest women and girls, through, where appropriate, the establishment and distribution of health-care facilities and trained medical personnel, collaboration with the transport sector for affordable transport options, the promotion of and support for community-based solutions and the provision of incentives and other means to secure the presence in rural and remote areas of qualified health professionals who are able to perform interventions to prevent obstetric fistula;

(e) To develop, implement and support national and international prevention, care and treatment and socioeconomic reintegration and support strategies, policies and plans to eliminate obstetric fistula and to develop further multisectoral, multidisciplinary, comprehensive and integrated action plans in order to bring about lasting solutions and put an end to maternal mortality and morbidity and obstetric

fistula, including by ensuring access to affordable, accessible, comprehensive, high-quality maternal health-care services; within countries, policy and programmatic approaches to address inequities and reach poor, vulnerable women and girls must be incorporated into all sectors of national budgets;

(f) To establish or strengthen, as appropriate, a national task force for fistula, led by the Ministry of Health, to enhance national coordination and improve partner collaboration to end obstetric fistula;

(g) To strengthen the capacity of health systems, in particular public health systems, to provide the essential services needed to prevent obstetric fistula and to treat existing cases by increasing national budgets for health, ensuring that adequate funds are allocated to reproductive health, including for obstetric fistula, ensuring access to fistula treatment through increased availability of trained, expert fistula surgeons and permanent, holistic fistula services integrated into strategically selected hospitals, thereby addressing the significant backlog of women and girls awaiting surgical repair of fistula, and encouraging communication among fistula centres to facilitate training, research, advocacy and fundraising and the application of relevant medical standards, including consideration of the use of the World Health Organization manual entitled "Obstetric Fistula: Guiding Principles for Clinical Management and Programme Development", which provides background information and principles for developing fistula prevention and treatment programmes, as appropriate;

(h) To mobilize funding to provide free or adequately subsidized maternal health-care and obstetric fistula repair and treatment services, including by encouraging networking among providers and the sharing of new treatment techniques and protocols to protect women's and children's well-being and survival and to prevent the recurrence of subsequent fistulas by making post-surgery follow-up and the tracking of fistula patients a routine and key component of all fistula programmes; access to elective caesarean sections for fistula survivors who become pregnant again should also be ensured to prevent fistula recurrence and to increase the chances of survival of mother and baby in all subsequent pregnancies;

(i) To ensure that all women and girls who have undergone fistula treatment, including the forgotten women and girls with incurable or inoperable fistula, are provided with and have access to comprehensive health-care services, holistic social integration services and careful follow-up, including counselling, education, family planning and socioeconomic empowerment, for as long as needed through, inter alia, skills development and income-generating activities, so that they can overcome abandonment and social exclusion; linkages with civil society organizations and women's and girls' empowerment programmes should be developed to help to achieve this goal;

(j) To empower fistula survivors to contribute to community sensitization and mobilization as advocates for fistula elimination, safe motherhood and newborn survival;

(k) To educate individual women and men, girls and boys, communities, policymakers and health professionals about how obstetric fistula can be prevented and treated, and increase awareness of the needs of pregnant women and girls, as well as of those who have undergone surgical fistula repair, including their right to the highest attainable standard of health, by working with community and religious

leaders, traditional birth attendants, women and girls who have suffered from fistula, the media, social workers, civil society, women's organizations, influential public figures and policymakers;

(l) To strengthen awareness-raising and advocacy, including through the media, to effectively reach families with key messages on fistula prevention and treatment and social reintegration;

(m) To strengthen research, monitoring and evaluation systems, including by developing a community- and facility-based mechanism for the systematic notification of obstetric fistula cases and maternal and newborn deaths to ministries of health, and their recording in a national register, and to acknowledging obstetric fistula as a nationally notifiable condition, triggering immediate reporting, tracking and follow-up for the purpose of guiding the development and implementation of maternal health programmes;

(n) To strengthen research, data collection, monitoring and evaluation to guide the planning and implementation of maternal health programmes, including for obstetric fistula, by conducting up-to-date needs assessments on emergency obstetric and newborn care and for fistula, and routine reviews of maternal deaths and near-miss cases, as part of a national maternal death surveillance and response system, integrated within national health information systems;

(o) To improve data collection, pre- and post-surgery, to measure progress in addressing the needs for surgical treatment and the quality of surgery, rehabilitation and socioeconomic reintegration services, including post-surgery prospects for successful subsequent pregnancies, live births and severe health-related complications, so as to address the challenges of improving maternal health;

14. *Calls upon* the international community, as it moves towards the post-2015 development framework, to positively consider including in that framework the issue of improving maternal health and eliminating obstetric fistula;

15. *Invites* Member States to contribute to efforts to end obstetric fistula, including, in particular, the United Nations Population Fund Campaign to End Fistula, with the goal of eliminating obstetric fistula globally, in line with the targets of the Millennium Development Goal of improving maternal health in the remaining days and beyond 2015;

16. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a report to the General Assembly at its seventy-first session on the implementation of the present resolution under the item entitled "Advancement of women".